Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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FBIS-NES-95-156 *14 August 1995*

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Palestinian Affairs

Hamas Threatens U.S. Interests in 'Palestine'

NC1108180695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has stated that Washington's extradition of Hamas leader Musa Abu- Marzuq to the Zionist authorities would be tantamount to a declaration of war between Hamas and the United States. Hamas threatened to strike at U.S. interests in occupied Palestine in response to such a measure.

Mustafa al-Liddawi, who is the Hamas spokesman in Lebanon, said no one can stop Hamas from striking at U.S. interests if Abu-Marzuq is extradited.

Council of Ministers Meets, Discusses Taba

JN1308084995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] During its weekly session today chaired by President Yasir 'Arafat, the National Authority's Council of Ministers discussed the results of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in light of the partial agreement reached in Taba on the second stage of the Declaration of Principles.

Presidency Secretary General al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said President 'Arafat briefed the Council of Ministers on the elements of the partial agreement reached with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, which stipulates that the National Authority shall have full security and civilian responsibilities in major Palestinian cities, known as Area A, and Israeli military forces' withdrawal from all rural areas in the West bank, known as Area B, where the national security forces will be in charge of public order. Movement on roads shall be agreed on later. Israel will temporarily be responsible for security and for protecting Israelis.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim added that the Palestinian position on the Hebron issue focuses on the Israeli forces' redeployment in the city just like other cities, and on special temporary security arrangements for settlers in the old city. He said that civilian powers should be transferred to the National Authority during the redeployment stage.

'Abd-al-Rahim said that in two telephone contacts with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher during the Taba talks, President Yasir 'Arafat stressed that Hebron constitutes a red line, and that the only solution to this problem which was created by the Israeli side lies in the Israeli Army's withdrawal from the city.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim stressed that the agreement provides for the release of Palestinian prisoners and detainees in the occupation prisons in three stages. The details will be discussed by the joint ministerial committee.

The presidency secretary general pointed out that a Palestinian-U.S.-Israeli committee will be formed to discuss water, economic, and political issues of common interest.

He added: The Taba agreement says that after the inauguration of the elected Palestinian council, the Israeli Army redeployment will begin in three stages, each of which will last for six months, where the Palestinian powers will extend to all the territories of the West Bank and Gaza, with the exception of the issues which were deferred to the final solution.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim said that the PLO Executive Committee, in its capacity as the higher term of reference for the National Authority, will hold an urgent meeting in Tunis on Monday to discuss developments in the political process in the light of the prospects of the coming talks.

Ministers Comment on Talks

JN1208200795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Aug 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its weekly session under President Yasir 'Arafat at the Presidential Office in Gaza today, the National Authority [Palestinian Authority, PA] cabinet discussed the latest developments of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, especially the results of the Taba talks.

Al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, presidency secretary general, said that President 'Arafat gave a briefing on the results of the Taba talks. He said certain principles were agreed upon, including full PA security and civilian responsibilities in major Palestinian cities in the West Bank, known as area A, and Israeli military forces withdrawal from all rural areas known as Area B, where the national security forces will be in charge of public order. 'Abd-al-Rahim added that in his review of the negotiatory position before the cabinet, President 'Arafat stressed that Hebron was the focus of most rounds of talks in Taba.

For his part, Labor Minister Samir Ghawashah stressed the need for redeployment from Hebron, just like any other city. Ghawshah added that some issues are still being discussed and need further discussions. Therefore, he said, several weeks may be needed before a clear and specific agreement is reached. Dr. Ghawshah accused the Israeli Government of continuing procrastination

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and attempting to undermine the bases of the peace process despite what he termed the superficial flexibility in some areas.

Dr. 'Azmi al-Shu'aybi, minister of youth and sports, said Palestinian and Israeli negotiators agreed to set 8 September as the deadline for completing the arrangements for arriving at an agreement. Al-Shu'aybi added that the peace process will be jeopardized if Hebron is excluded from redeployment and not treated like any other West Bank town. In view of these complications, al- Shu'aybi said that the cabinet has not fully approved the joint statement, pending an agreement on some detailed issues during next week's negotiations.

Meanwhile, the cabinet decided to refer the question to the PLO Executive Committee, which will hold a meeting in Tunis on Monday [14 August] to discuss the latest developments of the negotiations and the results of the Taba talks.

West Bank Said Topic of Executive Committee Talks

NC1208130995 Paris AFP in English 1106 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Aug 12 (AFP)— The PLO executive committee is to meet in Tunis on Monday [14 August] to discuss negotiations with Israel on extending autonomy in the West Bank, Palestinian officials said.

PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's advisor, Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, told AFP that the meeting would discuss the partial agreement on the next phase of autonomy reached with Israel at Taba, Egypt, this week.

"The committee also has to reopen its discussions on the whole peace process, which began six weeks ago in Tunis," he said.

The committee's secretary Jamal al-Surani announced the meeting without giving any further details.

Qaddumi Not To Attend Meeting

JN1408135095 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 14 Aug 95 p 19

[Report on "exclusive statement" to AL-RA'Y by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an exclusive statement to AL-RA'Y, Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has said that he will not attend the two-day Executive Committee meetings that will be held in the Tunisian capital on Monday.

Qaddumi said he informed Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, of his decision and said he is committed to the Executive Committee resolutions in spite of his absence. He stressed that he continues to have reservations about the Oslo agreement and its results represented in the Cairo agreement or any other subsequent agreements between the PLO and Israel.

Qaddumi denied that President 'Arafat has appointed him as his deputy, and stressed that he does not seek such a position. He said he is the foreign minister of Palestine, secretary of the Central Committee of Fatah Movement, and head of the PLO political Department.

Meanwhile, Palestinian officials met with Faruq Qaddumi at 'Abbas Zaki's residence yesterday. The meeting was attended by Executive Committee and Fatah Central Committee members. 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh and Taysir Khalid, who had withdrawn their Executive Committee membership, said they were invited to this meeting, which was described by Qaddumi as a mere lunch banquet. Qaddumi said there are no consultation meetings between the Executive Committee or Fatah Central Committee members in Amman.

Meanwhile, Executive Committee member 'Abdallah al-Hurani told AL-RA'Y that he received an invitation to attend the committee meetings on condition that he ends his withdrawal from the Executive Committee that took place after the signing of Oslo agreement in July 1993.

In an angry message he addressed to Executive Committee Secretary Jamal al-Surani, a copy of which was acquired by AL-RA'Y, he expressed surprise for this conditional invitation because it is a unique one, not only in the Palestinian political life but in the invitation system for meetings in general. He said: I will remain a member of the Executive Committee and will continue to carry the trust of this membership until the Palestine National Council convenes to return the trust to it because it is our term of reference for which we are accountable.

In a statement to AL-RA'Y, Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi [Palestinian Authority finance minister] said he will attend the two-day Executive Committee meetings, adding that this meeting is important and pivotal to the history of the cause and the Palestinian people. He said the Executive Committee will discuss the latest Palestinian developments and the results of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, in addition to the achievements of the various PLO departments, the Palestine National Fund, and the financial situation. He stressed that the agenda is full of topics that will be discussed at the two-day meeting.

Al-Nashashibi denied that there is a plan to work out a draft of the redeployment agreement by the

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Executive Committee members at this meeting, and said the meeting will only discuss the agreement and make recommendations.

A member of the Central Committee of the Palestinian People's Party said the party's representative to the Executive Committee, Sulayman al-Najjab, is ready to participate in the Executive Committee meeting if the meeting has a serious agenda that is binding to all and that ends the complicated Palestinian situation.

'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine representative to the Executive Committee, refused to attend the meeting, and stressed that the invitation lacks all conditions and elements of an official invitation and that there is no agenda. He said the front is opposed to the whole process and the Oslo agreement, therefore, he will not participate in the meeting.

DFLP Leader: Meeting 'Illegal'

NC1408121695 Paris AFP in English 1146 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus, Aug 14 (AFP)—Half the members of the PLO executive committee will boycott a meeting on Monday [14 August] to consider the partial autonomy accords reached with Israel, a Palestinian hardline group said.

Nayif Hawatimah, head of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), told AFP that the meeting in Tunis called by PLO head Yasir 'Arafat was "illegal" because "only nine of the 18 members of the executive committee will attend."

Hawatimah, whose group is opposed to the peace process with Israel, said the head of the PLO's political department Faruq Qaddumi was among those who would boycott the session.

'Arafat is seeking approval of the partial accords on extending self-rule in the West Bank he reached with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres during talks in Taba, Egypt last week.

The Israeli cabinet ratified Sunday the accords which include a four-stage redeployment of Israeli forces on the West Bank over about two years.

"The policy followed by 'Arafat and the conditions imposed by Israel will lead to the dissolution of the PLO just as the Israeli government hopes," Hawatimah said.

Besides Qaddumi and the DFLP delegate, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Party of the People and Arab Liberation Front will also boycott the meeting.

Independent members Mahmud Darwish, Shafiq al-Hut, Iliya Khuri and 'Abdallah al-Hurani have also decided not to attend, Hawatimah said.

Leading Figures Criticize Taba Agreement

NC1308194895 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 13 Aug 95

[Report by correspondent Nabil al-Khatib in Jerusalem — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Today the Israeli Government approved the partial agreement on extending Palestinian self-rule to the West Bank. [passage omitted]

The position on the Palestinian side appeared to be somewhat inconsistent and confused, specially after some Palestinian officials denied that any agreement had been reached. They described the outcome of the Taba meetings as an understanding on fundamental issues but stressed that it was a partial one.

[Ahmad Quray', head of the Palestinian negotiating team] I am surprised that this was described as an agreement. It is not an agreement. The agreement being negotiated is comprised of around 200 pages. There are only two issues for which the negotiators could not find a solution. We hope that the Israeli side will not interpret this development as meaning more than is the case, for it is but one part of the agreement.

[Al-Khathib] Some PLO Executive Committee members have expressed reservations over what they believe to be the postponement of vital issues.

[Sulayman al-Najjab, PLO Executive Committee member] This understanding, or this so-called understanding, regrettably means Palestinian acceptance of the Israeli concept of the redeployment process and of the so-called the transitional phase arrangements.

The inhabitants of Hebron are still seeking to ensure the Israeli Army's withdrawal from their city.

[Hebron Mayor Mustafa al-Natshah] If Israel is going to extremes to take care of 30 or 40 Jewish families who have settled in the city, then the Palestinian negotiator should ensure the 150,000 Arabs' right to live in dignity in their own city. [passage omitted]

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Quray' Comments on Taba Agreement, Differences

JN1108210195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1311 GMT 11 Aug 95

[Interview With Ahmad Quray', PA minister of economy and trade, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Ahmad Quray', Abu-'Ala', minister of economy and trade in the Palestinian National Authority [Palestinian Authority, PA] and a known Palestinian negotiator: Good evening, brother Abu-'Ala'.

[Quray'] Good evening. You are welcome.

[Correspondent] Was the agreement you signed with the Israelis an initial agreement?

[Quray'] In fact, I cannot call it an agreement. Some issues that affect the agreement were addressed. What has long been negotiated is an agreement on the entire transitional phase which addresses all problems of the transitional phase.

As is known, this transitional agreement and its components and appendixes may exceed 200 pages. President 'Arafat and the Israeli foreign minister yesterday agreed on issues which need a political decision by the highest political leaderships, so negotiations can be promoted.

No doubt, continuous efforts were made throughout four or five days. There were approximately 18 continuous working hours everyday until the gap was filled regarding a limited number of issues which impeded the agreement.

The most important issues were profoundly addressed and bases were laid for them in terms of unifying or approving the concepts on Area B, the Palestinian countryside. In this area, the Palestinian public security's role was recognized. Also recognized was the security responsibility for the Israelis to protect them and confront so-called terrorism.

Moreover, the Palestinian negotiator strongly emphasized the need to regain certain percentages of Area C; a 20 percent ratio was proposed. There was a compromise [preceding word in English] whereby this area will be regained in three phases, one phase every six months.

However, it was said that Area C can be regained through a series of redeployment whereby the Israeli forces withdraw to specific military locations and not to ill-defined sites spread throughout the mountainous range between the north and the south. These are almost the most important issues addressed.

[Correspondent] Will the unification of concepts pave the way for a comprehensive agreement?

[Quray'] No doubt, this will facilitate things. These bases will serve as a reference. As I told you, issues in this agreement are mentioned frequently. For example, Area C is repeated in all attached appendixes. Hence, the negotiator should refer to what was agreed here.

[Correspondent] Brother Ahmad Quray', Abu-'Ala': Would you kindly explain what is meant by Area C?

[Quray'] According to the agreement, there are still differences over Area C. For us, however, Area C means the area housing the military locations [preceding two words in English]. The Israelis, however, still call it the area that houses both the military locations and the settlements. We want the settlement activity to be as limited as possible, so it will not expand.

[Correspondent] Until the comprehensive agreement is signed, will the negotiators continue to discuss the Hebron issue?

[Quray'] In fact, Hebron is one of the most important issues under discussion. Our position continues to be as follows: Hebron is exactly like any other Palestinian city, and it does not differ from Gaza, Jericho, Janin, Tulkarm, Qalqilyah, Ramallah, and other cities.

Hence, what applies to other Palestinian cities should also apply to Hebron. The only exception is the presence of the settlers inside Hebron. It was acknowledged that there should be special security arrangements for these settlers in Hebron's old city.

This is their viewpoint, and it is really a bad one. They are seeking a so-called partial redeployment and they want the mission of the Palestinian police to be like that of municipal police armed with pistols. This is unacceptable. We have differences over who is the exception, Hebron or the settlers, and whether the settlers should leave the city or not. Our delegation, headed by Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], yesterday took a firm position toward this issue.

[Correspondent] Brother Ahmad Quray', alias Abu-'Ala', have you detected any Israeli political desire to continue negotiations until a comprehensive accord is signed next September, as Uri Savir put it?

[Quray'] In fact, I cannot deny Israel's desire to reach an agreement. It wants to because it is in its interest to reach an agreement. Local, regional, and international factors are pressing it for an agreement. When it considers these issues in light of its interests, Israel will speed up efforts to arrive at an agreement. Israel is going to take part in the Amman economic summit, and it cannot go there and be welcomed by an Arab capital unless it reaches a just agreement, and not any agreement it wants. The other point is that Israel wants its negotiations with the

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Syrians and the Lebanese to reflect positively on the Palestinian track. So, it seems to have such a desire. But I cannot tell if an accord can be reached during the period that was set for that purpose. However, no agreement has been reached on several major and important issues, including water, electricity, the details of security arrangements, and the concept and nature of a comprehensive agreement. Gaps still exist between the two sides even in terms of formulation. At least 100 major and minor subjects of dispute still exist.

[Correspondent] Brother Abu-'Ala', you know that negotiations on the final status of Jerusalem are waiting?

[Quray'] Undoubtedly. Discussions on Jerusalem will begin in May 1996. I believe that the greatest achievement is that the Oslo accord has defined the subjects of lasting agreement, as well as those to be discussed in the final status negotiations such as Jerusalem, the refugees, settlement, borders, and military sites. These issues, foremost of which is Jerusalem, will be tackled during the final status negotiations. Our position on Jerusalem is well known, and there is no need to repeat it. Jerusalem will be the capital of the state of Palestinian, God willing.

[Correspondent] Ahmad Quray',alias Abu-'Ala', minister of economy of the Palestinian National Authority and Palestinian negotiator, so long.

Further on Quray' Comments

TA1108185495 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Aug 95

[Interview with Ahmad Quray', minister of economy in the Palestinian Authority and head of the Palestinian negotiating team at the Taba talks, by anchor Tania Bar'on and correspondent Fayiz 'Umar in the studio, from "The Week in One Hour" program — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Bar'on] Mr. Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], we heard the reaction of Hebron's residents. What, in your opinion, are the possibilities of resolving the Hebron issue?

[Quray'] In fact, the Hebron issue is extremely important. There has been exaggeration in excluding Hebron. Hebron is a Palestinian city inhabited by Palestinian residents. It was supposed to be included in the first stage redeployment without any uproar at all, just as Jericho, Gaza, Janin, Tulkarm, Ramallah, and Bethlehem. Hebron is an exception because of the presence of a very small number of settlers. We have no objection to security measures being taken in the heart of the old city in order to provide security for the settlers for an agreed-upon, specified period. Otherwise, Hebron is a Palestinian city just as any other Palestinian town, and the Palestinian security forces will enter into Hebron. Perhaps there will be special arrangements for the presence of security forces, because we are not seeking provocation. We want the stage to pass peacefully and calmly and this agreement to succeed. Consequently, we seek neither exaggeration nor bargaining, but we absolutely cannot renounce our right. This is the principle that we took into consideration in this agreement.

['Umar] Abu-'Ala', will joint security forces preserve security in Hebron?

[Quray'] Redeployment will take place in the areas where there are no settlers. Palestinian security forces will be deployed in the heart of the old city with special arrangements. Life must be returned to normal in the town. Life must be returned to the holy shrine. It is extremely important that no Israeli security forces remain in the shrine so that life will return to normal. As for the rest, that is a Palestinian responsibility. Otherwise, the agreement will be very deficient and flawed.

['Umar] After participating in tedious and difficult talks in Taba lasting several days, how do you assess these talks?

[Quray'] Undoubtedly, the talks were difficult, harsh, and bitter. They stretched over four days with about 18 hours of daily work. President 'Arafat and the Israeli foreign minister reached understanding on a number of principal issues that affect the drafting and makeup of the agreement and even its content. Prior to this, the negotiators had reached almost a dead end regarding the second stage of redeployment, the rural area called in the agreement area B, and the presence and role of the Palestinian security forces in this area. We had reached a dead end. I believe the effort that culminated yesterday laid down a formula on the basis of which the negotiators will work.

Despite this, even in this agreement — which has been called an agreement — there are some points of dispute, points that need further discussion and on which there is still disagreement.

['Umar] Such as?

[Quray'] For example, in area B the Israelis are saying that the activities of the Palestinian police from one area to another must be backed up and that we should inform them before the police move, and then obtain their consent. We are saying movement, not activities. There is a big difference, because if activities are required, there will be a great deal of restriction on the Palestinian security forces in this area. This is something we do not desire.

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['Umar] With regard to the transfer of the rest of powers in the West Bank, has agreement been reached on this issue?

[Quray'] You know that there are about 40 powers. On some of them agreement has almost been reached, but there many powers on which agreement has not been reached. There are very important and crucial issues that have an impact on the future of the Palestinians as a people as well as on the future of their entity, issues that might determine the future of their entity. For example, the issue of water. This issue is still under discussion. Regrettably, there is a large gap and serious differences over this issue. In addition, there are many other issues that have still not been decided.

['Umar] When do you expect to reach a final agreement on all these issues?

[Quray'] I believe we must still exert great efforts. There must also be goodwill. The nature of the accord we reached in Oslo has still to be approved. This is an accord that should be implemented. We do not wish to introduce modifications to this accord. If there are sincere intentions, I believe it might be possible to reach agreement in a reasonable period. Otherwise, it will be difficult, because this latest agreement, with its components — about 200 pages — includes elections, handing over powers, redeployment, and security arrangements. Furthermore, some issues of the Gaza-Jericho agreement that are still pending are supposed to be resolved in this agreement, because it will be the only agreement that will govern the entire interim stage.

PFLP-GC Rejects 'Arafat's 'Treasonous Concessions'

JN1208203695 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 12 Aug 95

[Statement by "a responsible source" in the PFLP-GC; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Within the continuous treasonous concessions which Yasir 'Arafat has been offering to the Zionist enemy since the signing of the Oslo agreement, a new chapter of full alliance was revealed yesterday, 11 August 1995, between the enemies and the betrayers of our people and the Zionist enemy — namely the so-called Taba agreement on expanding the autonomy. The most dangerous points of this agreement are:

1. Maintaining all the Zionist settlements and ensuring the security of the settlers.

2. Perpetuating the isolation and the suffocation of the Palestinian cities by a barrier of Zionist settlements and by roads and passages that are subjected to the enemy army control.

3. Confining the role of the so-called autonomy authority to municipalities and to repressing and pursuing the mujahidin in cooperation with the Zionist enemy security forces.

4. Keeping the detainees in Zionist enemy jails to serve the interests of 'Arafat and the Zionist entity's security.

The responsible source added: We in the PFLP-GC [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command] are of the opinion that this agreement, which provides for the Zionist enemy another means of dividing the land and the people and which perpetuates the occupation of the entire Palestinian soil in exchange for granting 'Arafat an administrative power on only 15 percent of the Palestinian territory, is in implementation of what was begun in Oslo. The treasonous introductions which were started by 'Arafat's policy of capitulation cannot produce any gains for our Palestinian people who will continue the march of struggle and jihad.

[Signed] The PFLP-GC

Islamic Jihad Vows To Fight Taba 'Concessions'

NC1308173295 Paris AFP in English 1713 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Aug 13 (AFP) — The militant group Islamic Jihad vowed on Sunday [13 August] to fight against the "concessions" made by the PLO to Israel during talks in Taba, Egypt, for extending self-rule in the West Bank.

"The Taba accords show how deep into decadence (PLO chairman Yasir) 'Arafat has fallen by renouncing even the superficial authority he used as cover to approve his concessions," Jihad said in a statement sent to AFP in Nicosia.

The Palestinian extremist group said it "denounces these catastrophic agreements which allow Israel to win domination over the entire West Bank with the consent of the Palestinians."

It said it held the Palestinian Authority responsible for "the repercussions of this accord," warning that Palestinians "will not sit with their arms crossed but will oppose these concessions by every means."

"These shameful accords give us new reason to continue the fight and strip bare the lies of the Zionist enemy in this so-called peace."

The Taba agreements were approved on Sunday by the Israeli Government. The executive committee of the PLO will examine them on Monday in Tunis.

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The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) slammed the agreement on Thursday even before it was finished.

The two other main Palestinian factions opposed to the peace process, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, denounced it on Saturday as handing "new concessions" to Israel.

PFLP, DFLP Denounce Taba Agreement With Israel

JN1208143895 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The George Habash-led Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] and the Nayif Hawatimah-led Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] have denounced the agreement reached by the Palestinian Authority and Israel the night before last on expanding Palestinian autonomy. In a statement issued in Damascus, the PFLP said: The PLO chairman, Yasir 'Arafat, has coffered fresh concessions by abandoning Jerusalem and two-thirds of the West Bank and by placing Hebron city and Palestinian villages under the control of the Israeli army and Jewish settlers.

The DFLP said the new agreement placed about 80 percent of the occupied West Bank under Israeli control.

DFLP Leader Interviewed on Taba Agreement

NC1308203395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1750 GMT 13 Aug 95

[Interview with DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; from the "News and Reports" program — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] Mr. Hawatimah: You have denounced the partial agreement recently concluded between 'Arafat and the Zionist entity. What do you have against it?

[Hawatimah] The accord on the second stage of the Oslo Agreement leaves all of Greater Jerusalem subject to daily Judization and expansion by Israel. It leaves all the settlements in the hands of the occupiers and gives them the complete right to build by-passes and highways throughout the whole West Bank. Furthermore, up to the target date of 1997, 82 percent of the entire West Bank area will remain in the hands of Israel. The remaining 18 percent will be handed over in phases over a period of 24 months. At first, 3 percent will be handed over in November. This will go up to 7 percent in April 1996 and by 1997 it will go up to 18 percent. At that time, the Government of Israel will draw up Israel's new Zionist and expansionist borders. When the time for a final phase agreement comes, the position of the Rabin government— or the Likud government if it replaces Rabin—will be: This is the new border of Israel; you either accept it or go to hell. All the water resources on the West Bank will remain in the hands of Israel. In addition, security and external relations will be completely in the hands of Israel.

In other words, the West Bank will resemble a group of isolated islands that will turn into Bantustans like the ones the [former South African President] De Klerk white government offered to the African National Congress in South Africa and was rejected. To put it plainly, this means that 'Arafat of his own free will has given the Zionist occupiers a free hand in the Palestinian territories to expand in the coming years and to draw Israel's new borders. In so doing, he is acting unilaterally in a despotic way without referring back to any Palestinian body, neither PLO institutions nor the national coalition, which he has destroyed since the Oslo Agreement.

That is why we have said "no" to this agreement and urged the Fatah Central Committee members to join us and the people in a bid to rectify the matter by ending this farce and begin a national and political dialogue that could rebuild the Palestinian national unity coalition. Only this could end this farce and steer the struggle back toward the resolutions of international legality which give our people the right to end the occupation and settlements, the right to self-determination, to build their own independent state, and which entitle the refugees to return to their homes.

[Correspondent] The PLO will meet in Tunis tomorrow. Will you take part in this meeting? And what will emerge from this meeting?

[Hawatimah] We in the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], joined by a broad spectrum of PLO factions, have been boycotting the PLO Executive Committee meetings since 13 September 1993, the date when the Oslo Agreement was signed. This is because the Oslo Agreement was secretly concluded behind the backs of the committee, the other PLO institutions, and all our people.

We continue to call for a referendum on the Oslo Agreement, but 'Arafat, Rabin, and the U.S. Administration refuse because they certainly know what the outcome would be. In this regard, we say clearly that the so-called meeting is not run by the executive committee. The executive committee was destroyed in September 1993. Those who will meet in Tunis are independent figures or 'Arafat supporters plus 'Arafat himself and, perhaps, some Fatah representatives. The DFLP, the Pop-

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ular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], the People's Party, the Arab Liberation Front, [PLO Executive Committee members] Mahmud Darwish, 'Abdallah Hurani, and Shafiq al-Hut have been boycotting the executive committee meetings since the Oslo Agreement. As the whole world knows, the executive committee is a coalition of factions and personalities, not a group of individuals. Accordingly, those who meet in Tunis will represent only themselves and 'Arafat's wing of Fatah. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] What are the U.S. and Zionist goals of raising the case of Dr. Musa Abu-Maruq at this particular time?

[Hawatimah] The present U.S. Administration is one of the most avid in supporting Israel's occupation and expansion. It has waged large-scale political, diplomatic, and psychological warfare against all the Palestinian, democratic, leftist, Islamic, and nationalist opposition forces in order to play all these dirty tricks at the expense of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and to have an independent state and at the expense of the refugees.

They want to market Oslo in all its stages—that is, to liquidate the national rights of the Palestinian people. That is why several months ago the Clinton Administration produced a list of the several factions, including the DFLP, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the Islamic Jihad, the PFLP, plus many figures such as Abu-Marzuq, whom they described as persona non grata in the United States.

We here do not know what motivated Dr. Abu-Marzuq to go to the United States, even though he has a Green Card and his wife and children are American citizens, because his name is on that list. Thus, his detention is one in a series of steps by the U.S. Administration against any sort of opposition so it can market the defeatist and liquidationist solutions that 'Arafat is pushing.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much, Mr. Hawatimah.

[Hawatimah] You are welcome.

Official: Rabin Border Remarks Contravene Talks

TA1408085695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An official in the Palestinian Authority [PA] said that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statements that Israel would defend its security interests from the borders of the Jordan Rift Valley and the slopes of Judaea and Samaria contravened the political process. Zakariya al-Agha, who is in charge of housing affairs in the PA, told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the peace process was based on Security Council Resolution 242. Al-Agha asserted that this resolution stipulates a full Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 borders.

Official Warns of Putting 'End' to Settlers' Actions

TA1408103495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Riots occurred this morning in the center of Ramallah when dozens of youngsters set tires on fire. Our correspondent reports that they were protesting the death of an Arab youngster from the village of Dura al-Qar' in clashes with settlers near Bet El yesterday. Border Police units dispersed the rioters.

Dr. 'Azmi al-Shu'aybi, the Palestinian Authority's [PA] official in charge of the youth and sports portfolio, today warned that the Palestinians would put an end, as he put it, to the settlers' actions if the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] fails to do so. He added that the Palestinian killed yesterday had been shot in cold blood and that the settler who shot him had planned to kill him.

Arab-Israeli Talks

'Text' of Israeli-PLO Statement Initialed in Taba

JN1408093095 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Aug 95 p 2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Following is the text of a joint statement agreed by the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel after a week of negotiations on an interim agreement for the spread of autonomy across the West Bank was made public on Sunday.

Points still in dispute are given as (I) Israeli proposals, and (P) Palestinian proposals.

Area B covers rural zones, Area C covers settlements and sites to remain under Israeli control.

Joint Statement

The Palestinian delegation headed by President Yasir 'Arafat and the Israeli delegation headed by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, met in Taba Egypt, between Aug. 7-11 1995, and agreed on some of the principles to be elaborated in the interim Agreement as follows:

1. Area B:

In area B there will be a complete redeployment of Israeli military forces. The Palestinian police shall assume responsibility for public order for Palestinians and shall establish (I: 25) (P: 30) police stations and posts in towns, villages and other places as agreed.

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In Area B Israel shall have the overriding responsibility for security for the purpose of protecting Israelis and confronting the threat of terrorism. While the (I: activities) (P: movement) of uniformed Palestinian policemen in Area B outside places where there is a Palestinian police station will be carried out after coordination and confirmation, three months after the completion of redeployment from Area B, the DCOs (District Coordination and Cooperation Offices) may decided that movement of Palestinian policemen from the police stations in Area B to Palestinian towns traffic will take place after notifying the DCO [sentence as published].

These procedures will be reviewed within six months.

2. Further redeployments:

The further redeployments of Israeli military forces to specified military locations will be gradually implemented in accordance with the DOP (Declaration of Principles) in three intervals, every six months, after the inauguration of the council, to be completed by (P: February) 1997. In Area C, while Israel will transfer civil powers and responsibilities nor relating to territory in the first phase of redeployment, powers and responsibilities not relating to territory will be transferred gradually to Palestinian jurisdiction that will cover West Bank and Gaza strip territory, except for issues that will be negotiated in the permanent status negotiations, during the further redeployment phases to be completed by (P: February) (I: July) 1997.

3. Hebron:

With regard to Hebron both sides exchanged ideas and decided to continue the negotiations on this issue.

4. Prisoners:

In addition to the two stages of prisoner release agreed in the context of the Ministerial Committee (one upon the signing of the interim agreement and the other—before the Palestinian elections), there will be a third stage of prisoner release. The Ministerial Committee will work out the details of this third stage.

5. Revenues:

The Israeli side will transfer tax revenues to the Palestinian side upon the signing of the interim agreement.

6. Joint committee:

A joint Israeli-Palestinian-American committee will be formed to deal with (1) economic issues, (2) water production and (3) political coordination.

7. The Palestinian Covenant:

Two months after the inauguration of the Palestinian Council, the Palestinian covenant will be amended in accordance with the letter of Chairman 'Arafat to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Dated Sept. 9, 1993

Israel Proposes Special Status for Hebron

TA1208132195 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0700 GMT 12 Aug 95

[Report by political correspondent Udi Segal]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Seven issues were finalized in the Taba talks, although some — such as Hebron — were only partially resolved. In a briefing to reporters yesterday, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said the public profile of the Hebron issue will have to be lowered. If public pressure abates, it will be possible to resolve the dispute.

The emerging solution of the Hebron issue involves an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] force that will protect the Jewish locations — the settlement, the main road, and the Cave of the Patriarchs — and an armed Palestinian police force that will deploy in several city areas — this part of the agreement has not been resolved as yet — to enforce civil authorities. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0705 GMT on 12 August carries a report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz, who adds: "One proposed solution is to grant the Palestinian Authority a special status in Hebron that would be less than in the other six West Bank cities but more than in Area B villages, where Israel retains overriding responsibility for security. Thus, according to a proposal which may be agreed on, the IDF will pull out and deploy differently in non-Jewish neighborhoods, and the Palestinians will deploy their own troops there."]

The water issue, on which the sides sharply disagree, was not raised at all by Peres and 'Arafat. By the way, high-ranking political elements told us yesterday that the tripartite Israeli- U.S.-Palestinian committee that is slated to discuss the water issue will not address the controversy over the historical rights but only the economic aspects, because we are not going to let the Americans dictate water distribution to us.

Another unresolved issue is the holy sites. A team made up of religious parties convened to decide which holy sites are important to us, and they will hand their list to Peres tomorrow or the day after. The issue will be raised at the negotiations, which are due to resume in Elat on Sunday. Another Peres-'Arafat meeting is possible by the end of the week. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres explained his objective: The political accomplishment of the agreements, he said, is that we will be able to determine our permanent

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borders in Judaea and Samaria without an international confrontation, without world pressure. Peres said that by the time the additional IDF redeployment — the three-stage redeployment that will follow elections in the territories — is carried out, Israel will have to decide how it views the permanent arrangement.

[Begin Peres recording] Our presence in the territories is no longer controversial, and we will thus be able to determine the permanent borders amid international acclaim for having made a long and important journey rather that engaging in a conflict with the world.

When we start the further redeployment [preceding two words in English], we will have to account for these four factors [not further specified] in order to avoid a contradiction between the permanent borders and the redeployment borders. Since we do not intend to withdraw to the 1967 borders, it is obvious why we introduced this matter. [end recording] [passage omitted]

We asked Mr. Peres about the settlers: These armed people are engaging in a conflict with the security forces. What will happen if some of them seek to hurt the agreement by carrying out terrorist activities during the interim period? Did we not have a Jewish underground years ago?

[Begin Peres recording] They will not do it. I do not think they will do it. I am not intimidated by threats; there is nothing to fear. We must not be intimidated by threats; we must not give in to them. It is futile to pet a tiger in the hope that it will turn into a cat. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Israel, PLO Aim for West Bank Accord by 9 Sep

NC1208190295 Paris AFP in English 1746 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Gaza, Gaza Strip, Aug 12 (AFP) — Israel and the PLO want to seal an agreement on extending autonomy in the West Bank by September 9, the Palestinian "minister" of youth and sport said here on Saturday [12 August].

"We have agreed to do our utmost to reach an accord by September 9," 'Azmi al-Shu'aybi told the press after the weekly meeting of the Palestinian cabinet.

"We know from past experience that dates are not sacred but there are fears that Israeli legislative elections represent a serious obstacle to the negotiations," he said.

Knesset elections are slated for November 1996.

He added that "the whole peace process is threatened if Israeli military redeployment does not include Hebron," where 400 Jewish settlers protected by Israeli troops live amid 120,000 Palestinians.

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Egypt

Mubarak Receives King Husayn Call on Defectors

NC1308193495 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1924 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a telephone call from His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan this evening. During the call, King Husayn discussed the facts of the defection to Jordan of some Iraqli political figures and its effect on Jordanian-Iraqi relations. The two leaders also reviewed developments in the ongoing peace talks between the Palestinian and Israeli sides.

U.S. Military Delegation Arrives for Talks

NC1208181395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1721 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Aug (MENA)—A U.S. military delegation led by General J. H. Binford Peay, chief of the U.S. Central Command, arrived in Cairo this evening on a brief visit, during which they will hold talks with the Defense Ministry officials.

The talks will discuss military cooperation between Egypt and the United States. Major General 'Uthman Shahin, commander of the Central Military Zone, and U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Edward Walker received the delegation at the airport.

Cooperation Discussed

NC1308133895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1220 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Aug (MENA)—Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, commander general of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production, met today with General John Binford Peay, chief of the U.S. Central Command, who is visiting Egypt as part of a regional tour that will last several days.

The meeting was attended by Lieutenant General Salah Halabi, chief of staff of the Armed Forces, a number of commanding officers, and the U.S. ambassador in Cairo.

The meeting discussed military issues of mutual interest, in addition to ways to boost bilateral military cooperation.

Sidqi Leaves for Damascus Joint Committee Meetings

NC1308152795 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1435 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 134 Aug (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi left Cairo for Damascus this evening at the head of a delegation to attend the meetings of the Higher Joint Egyptian-Syrian Committee that will begin in Damascus tomorrow and continue for two days.

In a predeparture statement, Sidqi said that he is carrying a message from President Husni Mubarak to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. He said that the Higher Joint Egyptian-Syrian Committee will review the agreements concluded between the two countries in the spheres of economy, trade, transport, electricity, oil, education, and manpower. He pointed out that the committee will also discuss ways of strengthening political cooperation between the two countries.

Ahmad al-'Amawi, minister of manpower and employment and a member of the delegation accompanying Dr. Sidqi, said that the committee will discuss a draft agreement on technical cooperation between the Egyptian Ministry of Manpower and Employment and the Syrian Labor Ministry. He said that both delegations will coordinate on the travel of Egyptian workers to Lebanon via Syria. Regarding the situation of the Egyptian workers in Libya, he said that there is no cause for concern, noting that matters are proceeding normally for the Egyptian workers in Libya. He said that what actually happened is that foreign workers working without permits in certain Libyan areas have been dismissed.

Dr. Sidqi is accompanied by Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and planning minister, and the ministers of electricity, finance, cabinet affairs, local government, education, petroleum, and industry and mineral resources.

The committee will also discuss ways of expanding cooperation in various areas and will assess the achievements since its previous meeting in Cairo last year.

PLO's Faruq Qaddumi Arrives in Cairo From Rome

NC1108205495 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2020 GMT 11 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Aug (MENA)—Faruq Qaddumi, the head of the PLO Political Department, arrived in Cairo from Rome tonight on a visit to Egypt that will last several days. He will hold talks with Egyptian officials on the latest developments in the region.

Gambian Defense Minister on Visit, Meets Tantawi

NC1208135395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1235 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Aug (MENA)—Field Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, commander general of the armed forces and minister of defense and

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war production, met today with Edward Singhateh, vice president and minister of defense in the Republic of Gambia, and discussed ways to boost bilateral military cooperation.

Tantawi said during the meeting that Egypt always seeks to bolster ties of military cooperation with several states within the context of mutual respect and out of its eagerness to establish peace and security.

The Gambian guest visited military factories No. 200 and No. 100, where he inspected the military production lines. He commended Egyptian military production.

The Gambian minister arrived in Cairo yesterday on a visit that will last several days.

AL-SHA'B Editor Husayn Arrives in Washington

NC1408084295 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 10 Aug 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington—AL-AKHBAR bureau—Majdi Husayn, chief editor of the newspaper AL-SHA'B, has arrived in the United States on a three-week visit. His invitation is part of contacts the U.S. Embassy customarily makes with symbols of the defunct Muslim Brotherhood, terrorist Islamic groups, and elements that support and sympathize with them.

A similar invitation was once extended to the uncle of the AL-SHA'B chief editor who is also the Labor Party secretary general and a writer for the same newspaper.

More on Visit

NC1208055695 Paris AFP in 1409 GMT English 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Aug 10 (AFP)—A Moslem fundamentalist leader from Egypt is in the United States for a two-week visit at the invitation of the American embassy in Cairo, an embassy official said Thursday [10 August].

Majdi Ahmad Husayn, editor in chief of the AL-SHA'B bi-weekly, organ of the opposition Labor party, is a strong critic of the US and the Middle East peace process, and opposes Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

The government daily AL-JUMHURIYAH denounced on Thursday Husayn's August 7-21 visit to the United States, saying he "routinely criticizes Egypt and his paper is known for its support of extremists and terrorism."

The Labor Party is close to the Moslem Brotherhood, which is accused by the government of being at the root of the unrest in Egypt. It is not officially recognized but tolerated because of its official stand against violence. Dozens of its members have been arrested. Husayn's US visit was organized with the cultural exchange section of the US embassy and is part of a program granting invitations to "individuals known in their country and who have direct or indirect contact with the American embassy in Cairo," the embassy official said. The program is financed by the US Information Agency and usually includes a series of meetings with American celebrities.

Another Egyptian journalist, Iqbal Barakah, editor in chief of HAWWA' a goverment-supported woman's weekly, has been invited to the United States in September for a month-long visit under the same program, officials said.

Mubarak denounced in January the fact that the United States "was making contacts with terrorists who are the Moslem Brotherhood." These contacts, Mubarak told the US weekly THE NEW YORKER "will have no benefit for the United States."

The Egyptian press also reported discussions between the American embassy in Cairo and Muntasir al-Zayyat, the lawyer for the armed fundamentalist group al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah.

State Security Orders Release of 15 MB Members

NC1208161895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Aug (MENA)—The Higher State Security Prosecution Department today ordered the release of 15 defendants and that the remaining 15 continue to be held on remand for 15 more days. This is in connection with the ongoing investigations of them on charges of belonging to the dissolved Muslim Brotherhood [MB]. These defendants were arrested at a youth camp in July in Alexandria.

Interrogation of the defendants has revealed that they had been propagating the ideas of the dissolved MB organization within the camp. They also established an unlawful partisan organization seeking to remove the regime.

In another development, the Higher State Security Court in Cairo today decided to postpone the trial of five defendants in the Abu Tij case in Asyut to Monday [14 August] to hear the prosecutor's witnesses in the case. In today's session, witnesses testified that on 21 May 1993 these defendants assassinated Police Sergeant Taha 'Abdalllah as part of their terrorist scheme.

The State Security Prosecution Department accused these terrorists of joining an unlawful organization established contrary to the provisions of the law and

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the Constitution, premeditated murder, and possession of firearms and ammunition without a license with a view to using them in acts of sabotage.

Columnist Notes Arrest of MB Ahead of Elections

NC1108155595 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Aug 95 p 10

[From the "Country Folk" column by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus: "Flagrant Oppression"]

[FBIS Translated Text] I have known the Muslim Brothers [MB] for years. To be precise, I have known them since 1976, when they started reissuing the magazine AL-DA'WAH. I was one of the first journalists to work on that magazine. Since then I have come to know the leaders of the Brothers and the most prominent members. During these years I have never heard them advocate confronting the existing regime or using violence. They did the opposite and advised their followers to be patient over the harm that was being done to them and over the continuous police tracking. This is an honest testament from an eyewitness, which I present to the public and the common folk. I am ready to publicize this everywhere. I have irrefutable evidence confirming the truth of what I say. This evidence is that the Egyptian judiciary has not condemned any of the Muslim Brothers since they resumed their activities, from the time of President Anwar al-Sadat to this day. There is not one verdict issued by the Egyptian courts condemning any member of the Brothers in this time. It is a confirmed fact that the judiciary has the final say in confirming an accusation or not. I do not think we have reached the age yet where the word of the Investigation Department is final. I am saying all this on the occasion of the numerous oppressive campaigns against the Brothers because the date for elections is nearing.

No weapons were found with those arrested, not even a stick or kitchen knife. So how can the defendants from among the Muslim Brothers topple the regime or conspire against the government without carrying any weapons, even a penknife? The lies and fabrications are clear. It is no coincidence that we find many of the candidates who will be running for the next People's Assembly elections currently in prison. This is clear evidence of the move to doctor the next elections. The following are the most prominent of the detained candidates: Hasan al-Jamal from Cairo, who has been a member of the People's Assembly for three terms since 1978; 'Isam al-'Iryan, a former People's Assembly member for al-Jizah; Dr. Muhammad Habib, a former People's Assembly member for Asyut; Muhammad Husayn, a former parliament member for Alexandria; Muhammad Fu'ad 'Abd-al-Majid, a former People's Assembly member for Kafr al-Shaykh; and Mahmud 'Abd-al-Hakam, a former parliament member for al-Minya. I apologize for not mentioning many other names. These are election arrests and they are flagrantly unjust. But every oppressor has an end, God willing. Think not that God doth not heed the deeds of those who do wrong. He but giveth them respite against a day when eyes will fixedly stare in horror [Koranic verse]. We are awaiting that day, with God's permission.

Detained Islamists Interrogated on Mubarak Attack

NC1108152495 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Aug 95 pp 1, 8

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A few days ago the Egyptian security authorities conducted intensive interrogations with hundreds of prominent leaders of Islamic groups who are detained in Egyptian prisons. The interrogations are aimed at obtaining sufficient information concerning the Egyptian group, which, according to the Ethiopian authorities' revelations, was behind the abortive assassination attempt on President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa on 26 June.

During the investigations with the Islamic groups' leaders, particularly the prominent members of the military wing, the security authorities sought to obtain detailed information on the behavior of the groups' members and their relationship and contacts with the military wing of the Islamic Group in Egypt. The investigations also aimed at learning the types of training and the ideology of the Islamic Group's military wing.

The investigations were conducted as part of the ongoing efforts to complete the package of incriminating evidence the Egyptian authorities intend to level against Sudan for being responsible for the assassination attempt. But this point was not contained in the Ethiopian investigation reports.

Significant contacts are expected to take place between the Egyptian and Ethiopian authorities within the next few days, during which the Egyptian authorities will convey the latest information obtained by the Egyptian security service in this regard. It is also expected that an Egyptian envoy will visit the Ethiopian capital to convey this information. [passage omitted]

Evidence Said To Implicate Sudan in Mubarak Attack

NC1408035895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2030 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Aug (MENA)—On its front page, AL-AHRAM publishes for the first time the names and pictures of the planners and perpetrators

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of the assassination attempt against President Mubarak in Addis Ababa. They are Musafa Hamzah, who is the mastermind behind the attempt; Sharif 'Abd-al-Rahman, who commanded the operation; 'Abd-al-Karim al-Nadi; Safwat Hasan, Muhammad 'Abd-al-Radi; Rifa'i Taha, who is the amir of the Islamic Group; Islam al-Ghamri; and Husayn Shumayt, who is in charge of training and is better known as Siraj.

In tomorrow's issue, AL-AHRAM carries the following headlines: New Evidence Confirms the Sudanese Regime's Involvement in Mubarak's Assassination Attempt; The Addis Ababa Group Rehearsed the Sinful Attempt in Khartoum; The Terrorist Elements Sent from Sudan Identify Pictures of the Addis Ababa Operation's Perpetrators to the State Security Prosecutors; Al-Islambuli Lives With His Family in Khartoum and Carries a Sudanese Diplomatic Passport; Siraj Fled Ethiopia With a Sudanese Passport After the Failure of the Operation.

In its Monday issue, the paper reports new and important evidence on the Sudanese regime's involvement in the nefarious assassination attempt on President Mubarak on 26 June in Addis Ababa. Members of a terrorist group recently sent by Sudan to carry out operations in Egypt have identified photos of the perpetrators of the sinful crime to the Higher State Security prosecutors. They emphasized the support they received from the Sudanese authorities and that they had rehearsed the assassination attempt at a camp in Khartoum under the protection of armed Sudanese carrying Kalashnikovs. They also noted that the training had taken place at the same time as the assassination attempt on Mubarak. They stressed that Mustafa Hamzah, leader of the Islamic Group's military wing, who has been sentenced to death twice and who gets special treatment from the Sudanese authorities, is the one who made the plan, gave instructions to the Addis Ababa group, and provided them with money and forged documents.

Among those identified from the photos is Sharif 'Abd-al-Rahman Tawfiq, code named 'Umar. He is the commander of the Addis Ababa team who was killed in a clash with the Ethiopian security forces at the beginning of July. The defendants added that he had been put in command of the group because of his experience in making bombs and carrying out assassinations. They noted that he used to sit privately with terrorist Mustafa Hamzah at the Khartoum camp before the assassination attempt.

In their confessions, the defendants explained that Mustafa Hamzah had instructed their group to sneak into Egypt at exactly the same time he instructed another group to travel to an unspecified destination which they later discovered to be the group sent to Addis Ababa to assassinate President Mubarak. They discovered it after identifying their pictures in the newspapers; they included Husayn Ahmad Shumayt, code named Fathi Siraj, who received training with them at the Khartoum camp and who they had previously met in Afghanistan. Reports indicate that he had fled Addis Ababa to the Sudanese capital after the abortive attempt using a Sudanese passport.

The defendants also recognized the picture of terrorist 'Abd-al-Karim al-Nadi, code named Yasin, who was captured by the Ethiopian authorities. They also identified terrorist Muhammad 'Abd-al-Radi Khalil, code named Baha'; defendants Safwat Hasan 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Atiq, code named Faysal, and Rifa'i Ahmad Taha, who has been sentenced to death. They confirmed that they had received training with them at the Khartoum camp and that they know them to be close to Mustafa Hamzah. They added that the Addis Ababa team members had received different training from the other groups inside the camp. The group members used to leave the camp for a neighboring training camp between 0800 and 1100, the same time President Mubarak's motorcade was scheduled to leave after its arrival in Addis Ababa.

Muhammad 'Ali al-Sharqawi and Husni al-Buhayri, two members of the group recently sent to Egypt by the Sudanese regime, pointed out that Mustafa Hamzah, who is accused of planning the abortive assassination attempt, supervises the camps of the so-called Islamic Group in Khartoum. He also gave them security instructions and assassination plans and provided them with money and forged documents to move around with.

AL-AHRAM has learned that fugitive terrorist Muhammad Shawqi al-Islambuli, who has been sentenced to death, lives with his mother and family in Khartoum. The Sudanese authorities supplied him with a diplomatic passport and a visa to perform the hajj last year, but they later took him off the plane at the request of Mustafa Hamzah who feared he might get caught. A security report indicates that the wife of terrorist Islam al-Ghamri, one of the leaders who supervised the infiltration of groups into Egypt, gave birth two days ago in Sudan to a baby girl, who will be given Sudanese citizenship after having been registered at a civil registration office in Khartoum.

AL-AHRAM has also learned that the investigations into the sinful attempt on Mubarak have revealed that planning for the attempt started at the end of last year. Terrorists Mustafa Hamzah and Husayn Shumayt—Siraj—visited Addis Ababa to study the area and decided to carry out the operation just as President

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Mubarak's motorcade started to move. Shumayt stayed a while in Addis Ababa, where he learned Amharic. He was later followed by Safwat Hasan 'Abd-al-Ghani, code named Faysal, who married an Ethiopian, stayed in Addis Ababa, and learned Amharic.

The investigations also revealed the role of fugitive defendants Tal'at Fu'ad Qasim, better known as Abu-Talal, who has been sentenced to death and who got political asylum in Denmark two years ago. Qasim is in charge of the media committee of the so-called Islamic Group abroad. He maintains contacts with news agencies and newspapers and runs AL-MURABITUN magazine, the mouthpiece of terrorists in Peshawar. AL-MURABITUN ceased publication two years ago, but reappeared in the British capital last month.

The terrorists stressed that fugitive terrorist Ahmad Taha, who was sentenced to death in the Returnees From Afghanistan case in 1992, is now the actual amir of the so-called Islamic Group. He visited Sudan before the assassination attempt and used to live in Afghanistan before that.

Sidqi Urged To Put End to Sudan's 'Crimes'

NC1208103795 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0815 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Aug (MENA)—Journalist Ibrahim Sa'dah, chief editor of the AKHBAR AL-YAWM weekly, says: As the ruling regime in Sudan continues to and insists upon exporting terrorism to its big neighbor, Egypt, many voices are calling on the government of Dr. 'Atif Sidqi to retaliate strongly and decisively against the killer rulers in Khartoum, who have been spreading corruption inside the Egyptian border.

In his weekly article published today under the headline "Excuse Me, Dr. 'Atif," Sa'dah adds: The strong logic on which these voices are based stresses the Egyptian people's legitimate, religious, and legal right to defend themselves and punish the aggressors, an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.

The writer goes on: The Egyptian people are tired of being continually insulted by the Sudanese regime. Never before have the Egyptian people tolerated so many provocations, carried out by the Sudanese regime against Egypt without fear of punishment or reaction. The Egyptian Government is certainly no less angry and furious than the people, but it refuses to use force against the camps that shelter criminals and terrorist mercenaries inside Sudan and near Khartoum. It uses the pretext that the Egyptian soldier does not raise his weapon against his Sudanese brother, he adds.

Sa'dah continues: While we accept this principle and reject war, whether against Sudan or any other country, the problem is not our rejection of war or our call for its eruption. I believe the real problem is that the government of Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has failed to offer an alternative to war, an alternative for revenge for our victims, or an alternative to preserve our shaken prestige and spilled blood.

Concluding, Sa'dah says: It is our right to demand that the government of Dr. 'Atif Sidqi put a swift end to these crimes, which the Khartoum regime is addicted to perpetrating against us. It is, of course, not important whether this is achieved by force and coercion or by peace and persuasion.

Sudanese Reshuffle Seen as 'Cosmetic Process'

NC1408081095 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0515 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 14 Aug (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM says the Sudanese president's reshuffling of senior government officials is merely a cosmetic process made to an ugly face. Unless the picture is changed completely, and full democracy is restored and the people can choose their own rulers, Sudan's isolation will not end and the regime will not be saved from being overthrown by its people.

In an editorial today, the paper compares the Sudanese Government's extensive reshuffle with the Iraqi industry minister's defection to Jordan, which shows that Saddam Husayn's regime is breaking up. It adds that the Sudanese regime is in no better shape than its Iraqi counterpart because its sponsorship of terrorism and aggression have imposed a stifling Arab and international isolation on it.

AL-AHRAM adds: Perhaps the Sudanese president believes he is more clever than his Iraqi counterpart and sought to postpone his inevitable end by expelling the officials in charge of the policies that led to the country's isolation. He forgets that his actions merely attempt to polish up his government's ugly face.

Papers Denounce Clinton's Veto on Bosnia Decision

NC1308073095 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0510 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Aug (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR and AL-JUMHURIYAH denounce U.S. President Bill Clinton's position on the Bosnian issue and his veto of a congressional decision lifting the ban on arms exports to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In its editorial today, AL-AKHBAR expresses astonishment at the 180-degree difference in Clinton's position

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when the majority in Congress demanded that the arms embargo against the aggrieved Bosnian people be lifted.

The paper asks: What international convention or law makes this civilized world, which claims to be the peak of civilization, accept punishing a victimized people and preventing it from possessing arms to challenge a barbarian army?

It adds: Is this the U.S. justice about which they are bragging? It seems that this justice is not fit for use outside U.S. Did President Clinton ease his conscience when he decided to continue preventing the Bosnian people from obtaining weapons to confront the Serb criminals?

AL-JUMHURIYAH writes that the U.S. President justified the veto by saying the congressional decision threatens diplomatic efforts and makes the United States responsible for their failure, especially in light of the U.S. national security adviser's mission in Europe.

The paper says the danger of the U.S. veto lies in the fact that Russia is moving to lift the official ban and sanctions against Serbia.

It expresses hope that the U.S. Congress will beat President Clinton's veto or that developments will accelerate so that President Clinton is convinced, as the world is convinced, of the need to lift the embargo on the Bosnian Muslims and enable them to defend themselves.

Commentary: Taba Agreement 'Positive Step'

NC1208185295 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 12 Aug 95

[Commentary by Ahmad al-Qasir: "The Taba Agreement Is an Important Step Toward Peace"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The partial agreement recently concluded in Taba between Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres after strenuous negotiations is an important and positive step toward achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. The attainment of this objective is a challenge for everybody, but nobody can stop the march leading there. This is precisely why the parties concerned are eager to continue the negotiations to reach a formula satisfactory to both sides, despite the differences in views. Thus, it was not strange to feel a wave of optimism and satisfaction in international political quarters over this agreement, for the Palestinian question is the cornerstone of the peace process.

Even though the Palestinian-Israeli agreement is partial and falls short of resolving all the outstanding issues, and even though both sides admit that many differences still remain, the agreement is highly significant. Most importantly, it shows the two sides' commitment to continuing the negotiations and setting up technical subcommittees to discuss the issues in dispute between the two sides, such as the issues of water rights, Hebron, and the release of Palestinian detainees from Israeli jails. This shows the good intentions of the Palestinians and Israelis and their determination to work out a comprehensive and just settlement satisfactory to both sides. Another point of great significance is that any progress on the Palestinian-Israeli track will boost negotiations on the other Arab tracks, particularly the Syrian-Israeli track, which is suffering from stagnation due to Israel's intransigence despite Arab and international efforts to encourage both sides.

More significantly, the partial agreement between the Palestinians and Israelis definitively blocks all the desperate attempts by extremists from both sides to obstruct and even undermine the entire peace process, particularly Likud, which has called for a special Knesset session to debate the agreement. The Likud described the partial agreement to expand Palestinian self-rule as a capitulation agreement by the Rabin government. This is all part of the election game in Israel. In addition to the Likud, the settlers have recently stepped up their campaign to put pressure on Rabin regarding the Jewish settlements in occupied Palestinian territory, particularly in Jerusalem and Hebron, whose Arab identity and control they want to change. Thus, the partial agreement is a slap in the face for all those who reject the peace process.

Egypt believes in peace as a firm strategy. It has exerted and continues to exert all possible efforts to encourage all parties to continue the negotiations and to help overcome the hurdles. While welcoming this positive step toward the full implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, Egypt hopes that the two sides will continue their efforts until all the outstanding issues are resolved and, accordingly, they conclude a final agreement to expand the self-rule area. This would prepare the ground for the implementation of the second stage of the Oslo agreement, something that cannot be done unless there is goodwill and commitment by all parties to thoroughly honor the existing agreements. This is particularly true of Israel, who must prove in practice that it really wants a just and comprehensive peace with the Arabs. Such a peace is the only guarantee for the security of the Israeli people and all the peoples in the Arab region.

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Talks With Libya on Workers' Interests Planned

NC1108140695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT 11 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 11 Aug (MENA)—A joint Egyptian-Libyan committee meets in Tripoli on 13 August to discuss the Egyptians working in the Libyan Jamahiriyah and protecting their interests.

The agreement to hold this meeting followed a telephone conversation Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa held this morning with Jum'ah al-Fazzani, Libyan secretary of the General People's Committee for Unity.

The foreign minister then received a telephone call from al-Fazzani, who confirmed to him that the Libyan authorities will protect the rights of the Egyptians. Al-Fazzani also confirmed that the Egyptians working in Libya have not been expelled or deported except in individual cases and in particular areas. He said this has to do with the situation in this region and applied in general to foreign workers in Libya in the first place.

Instructions have been issued to the Egyptian ambassador in Tripoli to cut short his vacation and return to Libya to take part in discussions with the Libyan authorities immediately.

Sudan

President al-Bashir Reshuffles Cabinet

EA1208172895 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, has issued Republican decrees covering the following ministries:

Brigadier Bakri Hasan Salih has been appointed adviser to the president of the Republic and interior minister.

Retired Brig. Ba'ashi Salah-al-Din Muhammad Ahmad Karrar, has been appointed minister at the prime minister's office.

Dr. 'Awad Ahmad al-Jabaz, has been appointed minister of energy and mining.

Brig. al-Tayyib Ibrahim Muhammad Khayr, has been appointed minister of public service, administrative reform, and labor.

Retd. Major General Ma'ash Dominic Kassiano Bakhit, has been appointed minister of the environment and tourism.

Mr. Muhammad Tahir Illah, has been appointed minister of trade.

His excellency also issued the following Republican decrees on the security forces:

Maj. Gen. Muhammad Ahmad Mustafa al-Baray, has been appointed minister of state at the office of the president of the Republic and director of the external security force.

Brig. al-Hadi 'Abdallah Muhammad has been appointed minister of state at the office of the president of the Republic and director of the internal security force.

Police Maj. Gen. 'Abd-al-Mun'im Sayyid Sulayman has been appointed police director general.

Police Maj. Gen. Salah Mirghani Ahmad has been appointed deputy police director general.

The president of the Republic also issued Republican decrees appointing the following ministers of state:

Maj. Gen. al-Fatih Muhammad Ahmad 'Urwah has been appointed minister of state at the Ministry of Defense.

Dr. Majdhub al-Khalifah Ahmad has been appointed minister of state at the Ministry of Social Planning.

Dr. Ibrahim Abu-'Awf has been appointed minister of state at the Ministry of Public Service, Administrative Reform, and Labor.

New MI Director Appointed

NC1308130695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 13 Aug (MENA)—Sudanese President Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, commander general of the Armed Forces, has issued a decree appointing Major Gen. 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Fadil director of the Military Intelligence [MI] Department. He replaces Maj. Gen. Muhammad Ahmad Mustafa al-Dayin, who was appointed director of the Sudanese Foreign Security Department with the rank of state minister.

Al-Bashir is expected to issue other decrees involving the Armed Forces Joint Staff, whose terms expired in June.

The Joint Staff is chaired by Lt. Gen. Ibrahim Sulayman. He is assisted by Lt. Gen. Faysal Muhammad Safadah for logistics, Lt. Gen. Sayyid Ahmad Hamad for administration, and Lt. Gen. Faruq 'Ali Muhammad for operations.

SDUP Figure Views Cabinet Reshuffle as 'Tactic'

NC1308142495 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Aug (MENA)—Muhammad al-Mu'tasim Hakim, official in charge of the media in the Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party

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[SDUP] in Cairo, has described yesterday's reshuffle by the Sudanese Government as "a temporary change and a tactic made with the consent of the officials who were eliminated or whose positions were changed."

He told MENA today that the reason behind these changes is that the Sudanese Government has felt endangered ever since it was proven that it was deeply involved in the assault against the motorcade of President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa last June. He said that the government made that temporary change in order to eliminate the criminals who were involved in the assault on the president's motorcade and replace them with others who are loyal to the regime but are not part of the al-Turabi-led ideological organization. The optimal goal is to dispel the suspicions toward the government.

He referred in that context to Brigadier General Bakri Hasan Salih, who was appointed minister of interior, pointing out that he is a personal friend of President 'Umar al-Bashir.

Muhammad al-Mu'tasim affirmed that the purged security official Dr. Nafi' 'Ali Nafi' and Brigadier General al-Fatih 'Urwah, al-Bashir's security adviser who was transferred to the position of state minister in the Ministry of Defense, were both involved in the assault against President Mubarak's motorcade in Addis Ababa. He added that Dr. Nafi', a university professor who was appointed by al-Turabi, was the financier and planner of the operation in Sudan.

He added that al-Fatih 'Urwah, who visited Addis Ababa before the assassination attempt, was one of those who carried out the operation. He pointed out that the [National Salvation] Front is scared because preliminary investigations revealed the Sudanese Government's involvement in the assault. This was done through Nafi' and 'Urwah and with the knowledge of the interior minister and Brigadier Gen. al-Tayyib Muhammad Khayr, a hardline member of the front who has become minister of labor and administrative reform.

Al-Mu'tasim remarked that with this change the government not only condemns its basic elements but also honors them by appointment to other positions. He added that this, in fact, reflects the policies al-Turabi is using to stall for time, deceive the world, and keep these new elements as powerless tools for his ideological organization.

Al-Mu'tasim concluded that al-Bashir had nothing to do with these changes, since he himself is a tool who implements al-Turabi's policies without questions or objections.

Al-Bashir Signs Federal, State Government Decree

EA1208191695 Omdurman Sudan Television Network in English 1545 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President of the Republic, Lieutenant General PSC [Passed Staff College], 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, signed the Constitutional Decree No. 12 on the relation between federal and state governments today at the Friendship Hall.

Present at the ceremony were first vice president Major Gen. Zubayr Muhammad Salih, National Council Deputy Speaker Angelo Beda, a number of ministers, council members, governors, and senior officials.

President al-Bashir described the decree as a hallmark in the process of political, legislative, and executive work. He referred to the role and contribution of the Constitutional Decree No. 10, the progress of peace from within, and the return of huge numbers to the home fold and their enrollment in the development schemes. He called on the information organs to explain to the general Republic the aims and benefits of the fair distribution of wealth between the center and the states.

The president praised the work and efforts of the council members and people and their support of the revolution and its programs.

Returning Opposition Leader Gives News Conference

EA1108164595 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General (ret) al-Hadi Bushra, the former director general of the Sudanese security organ and member of the so-called supreme command for organizing the legitimate command in the opposition national democratic alliance, accompanied by Mr. Mahdi Ibrahim, minister of state at the presidency of the Republic, returned to the homeland this afternoon. They were received at the airport by Mr. 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat, the minister of culture and information.

The retired major general said at a news conference immediately after his arrival at the airport that the Asmara Conference had been a watershed between him and the opposition in that the resolutions adopted by that conference aimed at achieving what Garang wanted, namely scuttling the faith and national principles. He stressed that those resolutions heralded a foreign invasion and the ignition of a civil war. He emphasized that the Egyptian regime was behind all those designs.

He explained that he had met the [National Democratic] Alliance in accordance with specific principles. He had worked in the ranks of the opposition for five years,

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but had returned home for the sake of God and the homeland. He saluted the leaders and people of Sudan.

On developments in the Hala'ib triangle, he affirmed that the triangle belonged to Sudan, which would never relinquish it.

For his part, Mr. Mahdi Ibrahim explained that al-Hadi Bushra was one of a few who had adhered to the homeland's principles, which was why he had chosen to come home instead of embracing external forces and foreign agents.

TNA Envoys To Convey Message Abroad on Egypt

EA1108195295 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Delegations from the Transitional National Assembly [TNA] will soon visit a number of sisterly states to deliver letters from Mr. Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, the speaker of the assembly, to the speakers of the parliaments of Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Yemen and Morocco.

AL-INQADH AL-WATANI reported today that the messages contain Sudan's position on the Hala'ib issue and the Egyptian aggression against Sudan. The messages also confirm Sudan's principled stance calling for the resolution of such disputes through dialogue or international arbitration in order to preserve the unity and cohesion of the nation.

The newspaper added that the messages from the speaker of the TNA to his counterparts in those states call for effective parliamentary involvement to help achieve the aspirations and hopes of the Arab nation, to strive for a return of the Arab ranks and the overcoming of differences in order to face the challenges facing the nation.

Government, Rebels To Hold Talks 'Soon'

EA1208205395 Khartoum SUNA in French 1500 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum 12 August (SUNA) — Another round of inter-Sudanese peace talks is expected to take place soon between the Sudanese Government and the rebel movement, under the auspices of IGADD [Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development], this morning's edition of the daily AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH has reported.

Quoting the secretary general of the Higher Peace Council, Mr. Lino Deng Rol, the daily said that Sudan wanted to reiterate its reservations on certain points in the agenda of the negotiations brokered by the IGADD quadripartite commission. These points related to the country's unity and its civilizing policies.

Mr. Rol felt that any serious negotiations must be carried out within the framework of federalism and the maintenance of Sudan's unity. However, he expected continued stubbornness and [word indistinct] from the rebels so they could buy more time to reorganize following the crushing defeats they had suffered.

According to Mr. Rol, the rebel movement is depending mainly on the Asmara conference resolutions, which brought together elements of the Sudanese political opposition and of the rebel movement. He said that the rebels hoped the undeclared embargo against the Sudanese Government would be successful, and would lead to the overthrow of the Khartoum ruling regime.

The secretary general of the Higher Peace Council also said that the leader of the southern Sudanese rebel movement, John Garang, had set up a mobilization committee in Sudanese refugee camps in Kenya and Uganda to recruit people into the ranks of his movement, due to a shortage of fighters resulting from the voluntary return of the sons of [word indistinct] to their regions which are under the control of the Sudanese Government Armed Forces.

In this respect, he said that the country had experienced a great voluntary return movement, especially following the implementation of the internal peace programs. He said that over 500,000 people had recently returned. The recruitment campaign of the rebel leader had failed because the sons of the southern states believed in the importance of the restoration of peace from within, he said.

Government Reports Recapture of Kaia From Rebels

EA1308131295 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The People's Armed Forces yesterday evening [12 August] recaptured the strategic town of Kaia. Now that it has been liberated from the filth of the agent rebels it has rejoined the fold and become part of the homeland.

The Armed Forces General Command has issued a statement in which it confirms that its vanguards have succeeded in expelling the remnants of the rebellion and have entered the strategic town of Kaia, situated near the borders with Uganda, Yei, [as heard] and Zaire.

The statement says that the People's Armed Forces have continued to adhere to the principles of pledges and conventions within the framework of implementing its plan to ensure free movement by the administration and the protection of its positions. The statement says that there had been numerous instances of aggression against

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the (?garrison) at (Bazi), which made it necessary for the Armed Forces to act to crush the remnants of treachery, agentry, and rebellion by liberating the strategic town of Kaia as a gift to the militant Sudanese people for the 41st Armed Forces Day.

The statement says that with the liberation of the strategic town of Kaia from the brutal rebellion, the state of Bahr al-Jabal is now totally free of the rebellion. The peace from within operation can therefore be relaunched with greater impetus, and can achieve solid progress.

The statement congratulates the mujahidin in the People's Armed Forces, the Popular Defence Forces, and the Unified Police, who are stationed in garrisons at all the country's border points on this victory blessed by God. The statement wishes the wounded a quick recovery and the martyrs heaven and immortality.

Al-Bashir Addresses Rally of Shilluk Tribesmen

EA1108180095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, president of the Republic, has said that the purpose of the National Salvation Revolution was to establish peace in the country. His excellency said the Shilluk tribes stood for peace and national unity and that it was the first tribe [singular as heard] to comply with the revolution and the slogan of peace from within.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir was addressing a mass rally, organized by Shilluk tribesmen, at the Friendship Hall in Khartoum this morning. He said the government was prepared to settle Shilluk tribesmen in any part of the country. His excellency appealed to those people from Fashoda Pprovince who were in the capital to strive to develop their province and help push for peace and development.

Dr. Sharaf al-Din [Ibrahim] Ba Naqah, acting governor of Khartoum State, also addressed the gathering, saying that the revolution had made people serve God alone and had established equality between the people on the issue of settling people from the south in the country.

Mr. Lino Rol Deng, secretary general of the supreme council for peace, said the Shilluk tribes came out today to condemn the conspiracies being hatched against Sudan. His excellency appealed to the Shilluk tribesmen to strive to achieve peace and development.

IMF Denies Reported Threat of Expulsion

EA1108225295 Omdurman Sudan Television Network in English 1545 GMT 11 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The International Monetary Fund [IMF] has denied a report published by the British FINANCIAL TIMES newspaper that the fund has threatened to expel Sudan from its membership unless the country repaid its due debt.

In a statement it sent to the British Broadcasting Corporation, the IMF said it urged the Sudan to work out and implement an integrated program for the boosting of the country's economy. The statement, issued by the IMF executive council in Washington, added that the IMF would reconsider its position toward the Sudan in the coming months. The finance minister, Abdullah Hasan Ahmad, who led the Sudan's delegation to the latest IMF meeting, explained in statements to the local press and the BBC the positive outcome of the meeting.

Meanwhile, Culture and Information Minister 'Abd-al-Basit Sabdarat described the IMF executive council's response to the FINANCIAL TIMES report as a respected act that is fully appreciated by the Sudan. It also shows the IMF's keenness toward the accuracy of information of the fund's policies and decisions.

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Kuwait

Troops Taking 'All Precautions' on Iraqi Border

LD1308094995 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0815 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 13 Aug (KUNA) — In a statement made here today, the Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Ahmad al-Hamud al-Jabir said that the Kuwaiti Armed Forces had taken all precautions to guard against any developments north of the Kuwait-Iraq border.

In a statement to AL-SIYASAH, Shaykh Hamud stressed that the situation in southern Iraq was being monitored and indicated that no unusual movements had been observed in the ranks of the Iraqi forces.

He added: "The border forces are fully alert, in addition to Interior Ministry personnel who have also taken similar precautionary measures."

The defense minister's statements come in the wake of the latest developments in Iraq, namely the recent defection to Jordan of Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, former minister of industry and minerals, his brother, and both their wives, daughters of Saddam Husayn.

Foreign Minister on Ties With Jordan, Iraqi Defectors

LD1308200295 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1846 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 13 Aug (KUNA) — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the first deputy prime minister and foreign affairs minister, said today that the relations between Kuwait and Jordan were alive and not broken, and everyone knew that there is an embassy for Kuwait in the Jordanian capital, Amman.

In a statement to the press at the end of the meeting of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the National Assembly, Shaykh Sabah expressed a desire for more progress to be achieved in the relations between Kuwait and Jordan over the coming days.

Concerning his assessment of the nature of the relations between Kuwait and Jordan following the recent developments, Shaykh Sabah said: "I hope that we do not talk about this issue, and the relation between Kuwait and Jordan is alive and not broken, and you know that we have an embassy in Amman, and we hope for more progress in the relations between Kuwait and Jordan over the coming days."

Concerning Kuwait's stance over the escape to Jordan of Staff Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and minerals, and president of the Military Industrialization Organization in Iraq, in his capacity as one of the participants in the Iraqi invasion plan of Kuwait, Shaykh Sabah said: "We are following the issue very carefully, therefore, I do not want to say anything about this issue." He pointed out that the issue has become common and well known to everyone after seeing the events of the escape of some elements of the Iraqi regime to Jordan.

He added that the Kuwaiti Government is following the aforementioned issue with concern until its results became clear.

On Kuwait's optimism for the release of the POWs, and whether Husayn Kamil might provide information concerning them, Shaykh Sabah said: "I do not think that I can answer this question. However, we are concerned about this matter. The whole world is also following up this event. We hope that there will be optimism and good news concerning the return of our prisoners."

Shaykh Sabah pointed out that Kuwait is waiting for Husayn Kamil to give some information concerning the prisoners. "We are still following up what will emerge from this development."

Concerning the extent to which Kuwait could hold Arab consultations after the flight of some elements of the Iraqi regime, Shaykh Sabah said: "There are no developments other than the fact that two persons and their families have fled. We are giving the matter our continuing attention and concern in order to follow up its progress and where it will end."

About reports saying that the National Committee on the Fate of the Kuwaiti POW's and Missing Persons has begun contact with Husayn Kamil to obtain some information about the prisoners, Shaykh Sabah said that he has no knowledge of this report and that he could not comment on it without any knowledge.

Shaykh Sabah explained that his meeting with members of the Foreign Relations Committee was not something new. He pointed out that he always meets with them to acquaint them with all the developments concerning Kuwait's relations and Kuwaiti issues with the UN Security Council.

Chinese Delegation Arrives on Official Visit

Meets Amir, Prime Minister

LD1208120495 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His highness the amir, may God protect him, received His Excellency Luo Gan, secretary general of the Chinese State Council, and his

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accompanying delegation at 1000 today on the occasion of their visit to the country. [passage omitted]

His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, received the delegation in his office at Bayan Palace at 1030. [passage omitted]

Official on Need for Iraq Compliance

LD1208135095 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1210 GMT 12 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, 12 Aug (KUNA) — State Councillor Luo Gan, secretary general of the Chinese State Council, and his accompanying delegation, who are currently visiting Kuwait, today held a meeting with 'Abd-al-'Aziz Dakhil al-Dakhil, minister of state for cabinet affairs and minister of planning,.

A press statement issued after the meeting said that the minister exchanged views with his Chinese counterpart on various matters pertaining to relations between the two fraternal countries, particularly in the fields of development, economic cooperation, and strengthening ties between Kuwait and China.

'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dakhil, praised the honorable stance of the PRC at all levels towards Kuwait's just causes.

The statement said that the Chinese official reiterated his country's just positions and stressed the need for the Iraqi regime to comply with all the international resolutions related to the war to liberate Kuwait, foremost among which is the release of all Kuwaiti POWs and detainees in Iraqi prisons. [passage omitted]

Official Meets With Foreign Minister

LD1208183095 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, first deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, today received Luo Gan, state counsellor and secretary general of the PRC State Council. The two sides discussed relations between the two friendly countries and a number of issues of mutual interest.

Iranian Culture Minister Arrives on Official Visit

LD1108194295 Kuwait KSC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mostafa Mirsalim, the Iranian minister of culture and Islamic guidance, arrived in Kuwait city today. He was greeted upon arrival by the Minister of Information Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah.

The Kuwaiti minister of information has had talks with his guest; they dealt with cooperation on information beteen the two countries and the means to boost them in all spheres as well as other topics of common interest.

The meeting was attended by Faysal Muhammad al-Hajji, undersecretary of the Ministry of Information.

Saudi Arabia

Opposition Denounces Execution of Political Activist

NC1308155495 Paris AFP in English 1415 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Aug 13 (AFP) — An exiled Islamic opposition group on Sunday [13 August] denounced Saudi Arabia for executing the first political activist.

"The Saudi regime has started the bloodletting and assumes full responsibility for its reckless act and the consequences of it," the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights (CDLR) said in a statement received here.

Riyadh announced Saturday it had beheaded 'Abdallah 'Abd-al- Rahman al-Hadhif, a Saudi convicted of throwing acid at a police officer on orders from the leader of the London-based CDLR, Muhammad al-Mas'ari.

Nine other people were sentenced to between three years and 18 years in prison for hiding al-Hadhif, holding opposition meetings and distributing political pamphlets, Saudi authorities said.

Al-Hadhif, married and the father of six children, is the "first martyr" in the struggle for political reform, the CDLR said.

The group denied it had ordered the attack on the officer, Sa'ud Bin-'Abdallah al-Shibrini, who was badly burned and said al-Hadhif "had not planned to kill him."

But it charged that al-Shibrini "is a torturer who specializes in the interrogation" of opposition members.

The group also said three of the people sentenced by Saudi authorities for helping al-Hadhif were in prison the day of the attack.

It was the first time that the Saudi authorities announced the execution of a Saudi opposition member. His death brings to 140 the number of people beheaded this year — a record.

Most have been executed for murder, drug offenses and other crimes.

Immediately banned in Saudi Arabia after it was founded in 1993, the CDLR includes university professors and religious leaders who accuse King Fahd of

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corruption, denounce his "undemocratic" methods, and demand reform.

King Appeals to International Community on Bosnia

LD1108161795 Rabat MAP in English 1243 GMT 11 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Riyadh, Aug. 11 (MAP) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia renewed Thursday his call on the international community and the Islamic world to save the Bosnian Moslems from Serbian attacks.

In a speech on the occasion of the campaign of solidarity with Bosnia, King Fahd deplored the passivity of the international community regarding the barbarous massacres perpetrated against the Bosnian people.

Saudi Arabia is holding this Friday another telethon to raise funds for Bosnia. A Saudi raising fund committee said it collected so far over 213 million dollars destined to the Muslims of Bosnia.

Information Minister Meets With Newspaper Editors

LD1308195695 Riyadh SPA in English 1925 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jeddah, Aug 13, SPA — Information Minister Dr Fu'ad 'Abd-al-Salam al-Farisi met here today with editors-in-chief of national newspapers and magazines to ascertain requirements of the press media work, which will be pursued by it in the upcoming phase in the light of development of the kingdom at all levels.

At the outset of the meeting, Dr al-Farisi praised the distinguished role being played by 'our press to serve this nation and its accomplishments in all spheres in line with directives of custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz and the crown prince as well as to serve causes of the Arab and Islamic nation, matching with and following up international events, projecting a lively and true picture before the Saudi and Arab reader, and gaining for itself respect from inside and outside the kingdom.'

Dr al-Farisi conveyed the confidence of King Fahd in the Saudi media in general and the Saudi press in particular. He said the monarch is pleased with activities and credibility which are the distinguishing features of the kingdom's newspapers and magazines that are keeping aloof from exaggerations, bullyings and instigations.

The minister of information urged the officials of the Saudi press to double their efforts and works which distinguishes them, so as to provide a more brighter image of the unmatched internal development in the kingdom and its foreign status as a carrier of wise policy which accorded the kingdom confidence and respect of the international community.

Dr al-Farisi thanked the editors-in-chief for their successful efforts in serving this nation and expressed hope that these plentiful of results would continue in future. 'Hopefully, these efforts will always be directed towards further growth, matching the kingdom's growing progress as a result of its adherence to the Islamic sharia,' he added.

The meeting was attended by Ahmad Bin-'Ali al-Qahtani, the ministry's under secretary and supervisor of the information minister's office, 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Rashid, the ministry's assistant under secretary for internal information, Muhammad 'Ali al-Qudair, the ministry's assistant under secretary and supervisor of publications and Sami 'Abul Fajr, the director general for internal information of Makkah Region.

Radio Announces Extra News Bulletins

LD1308123095 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Radio draws your attention to the fact that within the framework of its intensified news coverage, we have introduced six extra news summaries: Three on the general program at 0800, 1000, and 2400; and three on the second program at 0900, 1100, and 1400.

The remaining bulletins and summaries will continue as usual at their previous times on the general program, the second program, the Islamic Call Station and the Holy Koran Station. This will begin tomorrow, Monday 14 August.

Thanks to our dear listeners who follow our programs.

United Arab Emirates

Shaykh Zayid Receives Bahraini Heir Apparent in Geneva

JN1108122595 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 11 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The president, His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, received at his place of residence in Geneva last night His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the fraternal Bahrain Defense Force. The Bahraini heir apparent conveyed to the president warm greetings and good wishes from his brother His Highness 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah, the amir of fraternal Bahrain.

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Talks dealt with the current developments in the region, the Arab situation in general, and the brotherly fraternal relations.

The meeting was attended by Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Muhammad al- Qasimi, adviser to his highness the president; and Lieutenant General Hamud Bin-'Ali, special adviser to his highness the president.

Abu Dhabi Heir Apparent Meets With Moroccan Speaker

LD1308215895 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Zayid al Nuhayyan, the Abu Dhabi heir apparent, today reviewed [in Abu Dhabi] the efforts of the State of United Arab Emirates and Morocco for clearing the Arab atmosphere and restoring Arab solidarity with the [Moroccan] speaker of the Chamber of Deputies Mohamed Jalal Essaid.

The Abu Dhabi heir apparent and the speaker of the chamber of deputies, in the presence of Abdelrahmane Mansouri, the Moroccan ambassador to the UAE, exchanged viewpoints on current international issues, foremost among them being the situation in Bosnia- Herzegovina and the initiative of the two countries in support of the Bosnian people, and also the efforts for the recovery of the occupied Arab territories and especially the holy city of Jerusalem.

The two sides also praised the fraternal relations between the two countries which had been established by His Majesty King Hassan II and His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan al Nuhayyan.

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Officials, Media React to Saddam Family Defections

Hasan Accused of Stealing 'Millions'

JN1108182095 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Aug 95

["Text of important message from President Saddam Husayn to the great Iraqi people on the treason of Husayn Kamil" on 11 August; place not given—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. But if they have treacherous designs against thee, (O.Messenger!), they have already been in treason against God, and so hath He given thee power over them. And God is He who hath full knowledge and wisdom. [Koranic verses]

O great Iraqi people, peace be upon you. Under such circumstances and situations such as those we are experiencing, we know and understand, given your sensitivity and passion, the extent of your ability to appreciate, show gratitude, and honor those who treat you well, show unlimited sincerity to your cause, and make sacrifices for the sake of this cause. We also understand your feeling toward those who show ingratitude, betray the trust, stab the homeland and patriotism, and seek to stab you in the back. We understand, nay, we suffer for the good, generous, and great people of Iraq when someone shows up in public, here or abroad, to meet beneficence with abuse and care with the kick of a mule. Such behavior has nothing to do with the genuineness on which the people of Iraq have been raised. We have been most pained by the abuse of abusers and the treason of the treacherous, those who meet beneficence with abuse, amity with hatred, sincerity with falsehood, justice with injustice, and favor with ingratitude.

Because I know you well and know your great traits and sincere feelings, I must now do my part on the basis of my responsibility to ease your pain as you ponder: Why do the traitors fall in treachery? By that I mean the one who no longer befits the name: Husayn Kamil, who fell into the abyss, losing any value that he had enjoyed, possessed, or had attributed to him. A direct speech may not explain all that should be explained even if it contains so many details. Why should this traitor in particular betray now, and under the current circumstances? Neither I nor my comrades know of any specific reason or reasons for committing this treason. The traitors have no argument to make before the faithful.

In our bitter experience, and in confronting them, we have not heard any decisive pretext from them. However, we determined through conclusions and analyses their reasoning. Some of their reasons for betrayal are psychological and some others are mental. Some of them are due to jealousy, envy, and sick imagination; and some are due to empty, fatal, and mean conceit. This had happened with Nazim Kizar in 1973, and with the Ghanim 'Abd-al-Jalil-'Adnan al-Hamadani clique in 1979. There had been signals from others in a way that started during the underground action. This makes the years of the underground action longer than the years of the revolution. However, we find that the common factors which are followed by decline are the shaky and unbalanced personality when it is invaded by avarice and enthralled by conceit. So, evil action will overcome good action which pleases God, the merciful; or when people become unjust and covetous. Thus, God, the merciful abandons them and deprives them of the honorable names attributed to them so as to render them losers.

To help ourselves and to help you explain this clearly, we should recall part of the stories of messengers and prophets. You all recall the story of the two sons of Adam, may God's peace be upon him, when Cane became jealous of his brother Abel because God Almighty accepted Abel's sacrifice and did not accept Cane's sacrifice. So, he became angry and lost his senses because he favored himself over his brother, and because he erroneously imagined that he had rights over his brother based on avarice, jealousy, and envy, and not based on God's laws. So, his avarice killed him when he was deprived of prestige, right, honor, and kinship through killing his brother. Thus, he became a wrongdoer. If thou dost stretch thy hand against me, to slay me, it is not for me to stretch my hand against thee to slay thee, for I do fear God, the cherisher of the worlds. [Koranic verse]

You also remember how the son and the wife of Noah stood by the side of the erroneous against him until God told him when he pleaded for them with God that what he called his son was not a member of his family. You also know how Judas betrayed Jesus Christ, although he was one of the 11 apostles. He might have imagined out of his greed and jealousy, which were eating at his conscience and title, that the mere fact that God made him resemble Jesus Christ in appearance was enough to be a successor of Jesus Christ through treason to go up one step on the ladder of the world after being stained with disgrace. Thus Judas has betrayed.

The brief, indicative answer is that although he was one of the apostles, Judas betrayed Jesus because his greed killed him when he became one of the apostles and when that greed made the enemies target weaknesses in his soul, mind, and conscience. As a result, his faith was shaken and he gave Jesus Christ a betrayal kiss. This was God's signal to the infidel and the lost to recognize

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the true Jesus Christ since Judas and Jesus resembled each other.

You also know the story of Messenger Muhammad Bin-'Abdallah, God's prayer and peace be upon him, when he came to guide his uncles and his tribe they remained lost and stuck to their fatal greed. But the messenger insisted on his policy and refused to mix the path of message and prophecy with greed and errors. Abu-Lahab [one of prophet Muhammad's uncles, who opposed him] was a prominent example of betraying God and the ties of kinship. The father of the prophet Abraham, God's peace be upon him, parted with his father when his values clashed with those of his father.

O great people, O our glorious nation, God wanted to make a bad example of those who disobeyed Him just as He did in the era of prophets and messengers to stress right in his messages and to support his prophets. Therefore, He made us inherit the good examples of our glorious heritage and He made the bad example inevitably fall in the abyss when it conflicted with the good example and sublime meanings.

All evil attempts have failed, and the march of good and the meanings of justice and their examples have advanced. Croesus was only a bad example, although he possessed wealth and stole the people's wealth and sweat. Those who steal from and betray their people will be chased only by their shadows on the ground and their sick imagination after God withdraws His shadow. They will also be chased by Interpol when international law operates according to the purposes for which it was established after it has freed itself from the influence of those who wish to dominate it.

O glorious Iraqi men and women: We know that in this message to you we may have given ingratitude more than it deserves. We also know that by so doing we may have enhanced the imagination of his sick soul and of his deadly arrogance.

It is because we respect and love you that we respect and appreciate your rights. Among these rights is your right to know facts as they are and from their source. This was emphasized in our speech to the 11th congress of the [Ba'th Party] Iraq Branch and our speech this year on the Day of Days—the Day of Decisive Victory—in the glorious al-Qadisiyah.

He who contemplates our speech to the Ba'th Party congress will learn that in addressing the great people and the strugglers of the great Ba'th Party, Saddam Husayn does not only utter fine theoretical words but also derives his words from more than a quarter of a century of experience in leading the march in the wake of the great July Revolution.

Moreover, he will learn that Saddam's words also stem from a lesser known period of time spent in secret militant action. Each stage of the July Revolution tells the nature of its people.

In my speech to the congress, I also talked about the courage that deviates and about the men whose greed has killed their human nature. Thus, the courage of knights has died in them, and it is no longer indicative of any sublime meaning because the sublime meanings died inside their souls.

I also cautioned others about what should be done to rectify mistakes and keep themselves away from sin. One of you may say: Why did not you make a good choice—in its absolute meaning—of those whom you have chosen? We tell you: The absolute meaning and the absolute knowledge are among the characters of God Almighty alone.

We also say: In the final analysis, the deviation of a deviant one and the illness of an ailing person may not always cancel the sound initial choice or its objectivity and accuracy. Noah, peace be upon him, was not mistaken when he married a woman who did not obey him and who fell to the abyss.

Moreover, Abraham, may peace be upon him, was not sinful only because his father was one of the misled persons. Thousands of those whom we chose have ultimately shown good performance, exactly as they did at the very beginning whether in terms of building this lofty structure or fighting in defense of it, of the homeland, and of the people.

He who is courageous and effective, motivated by sincerity and honesty as well as by the thrust of the march and by the influence of its symbols, will not continue to enjoy the march's courage and effectiveness when he becomes a traitor. He will then be considered as being a mere small sinful person haunted by the sublime meanings which are embodied in all good and sincere persons in our mujahid Arab people in any dark den housing him.

He will also be haunted by what he knows and hears about the heroic Iraqi people, by what he used to know about them, and by what he used to enjoy among these people and under their march, contrary to his current condition. He is now a mere number that will be added to the numbers of those who committed treason and who were deluded.

Husayn Kamil, a person who is close to us, has sold out. However, his influence will not be as great as that of Judas. He will be stoned by history, just as others have been stoned. If he indeed wanted to repent for some of the things he has done, he should better die

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and not live in humiliation. He will soon find out that the few millions of dollars he stole from what he called the front companies, from the wealth of the people—who are struggling with their sweat and effort to gain an honorable bite of food and a drop of medicine, through which God can cure them from an illness, to continue their steps of steadfastness and growth—we say: He will find out that the ill-gotten money and the protection of the foreigners is not as meaningful as the protection of the faithful, sincere Iraqis; nor would it incorporate the significance of the financial decisions he used to make whenever he rendered a service to his people at the beginning and at some distance from it.

He will find out that the eyes of the honorable, sincere, and patriotic Arabs and foreigners will swallow his eyes with their piercing looks because a patriotic, sincere, honorable, and trustworthy individual does not like treason or treachery even when the agents fall prey to his schemes and come to him in submission and humiliation to execute his will. He will soon discover that the orders of the foreigners, or their failed lackeys, are made for him to obey, that he is told to accept these orders without any argument or the right to veto, and that they would not put up with any recklessness on his part. He may remember then, when it is too late, how we used to treat him, and deal with him.

However, we are not sorry for him or for what we did for him, because we were expressing ourselves and what we believed in. We, therefore, gave him the glory and the great significance we wanted him to gain. He, however, repaid us, and the people of Iraq, with what will bring him nothing but shame.

O great people, in the great marches and the difficult circumstances, certain people may betray us. But the march will only escalate and prosper and assume greater significance after those who advocate it and make up a vital and living part of it rely on God Almighty and put their people in their eyes. The march will not be affected by those who deviate from it. Instead, it is influenced by those who are sincere, faithful, and a trustworthy part of it.

As to what Husayn Kamil has said or will say, he has said and will say what the other agents, who traveled before him on the same path, have said. He will not harm the Iraqi people with anything, except the slander that they will hear from the misled ones, or by the falsehoods, which those who are lying in wait and who are now his masters, will base on his statements to extend the blockade until he is burned out and thrown on the road. This is the experience of the foreigners and the lackeys of the foreigners who travelled before him to treason and shame.

O great mujahid people: In the march of his great jihad, our Prophet Muhammad, the faithful messenger, sought the assistance of his Muslim relatives. Their actions and their abilities were most effective, because they were believers and faithful. First of all, they honored the pledge of Islam, placing the ties of kinship in the service of Islam. Islam and its values were not in their service. Rather, Islam was an honor to them. They were an assistance to Islam when they were educated by the manners of the Koran and the prophet, and when they followed the standards of the faith of their honorable messenger, may peace and blessings be upon him, and the honor, glory, and credit that God had ordained for him. However, neither Islam nor its leaders had been shaken as they clashed with the relatives of the prophet, the likes of Abu-Lahab. Rather, Islam and its leaders had shown pure genuineness, steady ascension, and unchanging standards. The relatives of the prophet, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, like Hamzah and 'Ali, may God be pleased with them, as well as Abu-Talib and others who assimilated, understood, and honored their stands, were esteemed by Islam and their ties of kinship were respected by the prophet. The prophet, may God's peace and blessings be upon, did not recall the ties of kinship as he fought the misled infidels of Quraysh or 'Abd-Manaf.

Today, I will recall a pledge that we made before God at the very beginning, when we vowed to build with you and for you a just, modern, faithful, and capable system, and a state based on fairness, faithfulness, and sublime values. We will fight abuse and treason, especially misappropriation of the people's wealth and betraying the homeland and the march. We will not accept—nay, we will fight whoever imagines that he can transfer the Iraqi people's wealth — as though it were a milking cow — to his close companions, favorites, and for the service of sick, greedy souls.

May the great people of Iraq live long. Oh, could I but sacrifice for you my family, tribe, and children! May God be witness to what I am saying. God is great. Down with the lowly ones!

[Signed] Saddam Husayn

[Dated] 15 Rabi' al-Awwal 1416 Hegira, corresponding to 11 August 1995

'Aziz on Situation in Country

JN1108143195 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] We have received the following: Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz said: Any interpretations linking Husayn Kamil's defection with the

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situation in the country are mere illusions or weightless and erroneous conclusions.

In an exclusive statement to the Iraqi News Agency [INA], the deputy prime minister said: Husayn Kamil used to occupy an important post in the state when he was part of it and loyal to his country and leader. When he betrayed his country and leader and fled, he lost all his influence on the country's situation.

Tariq 'Aziz ridiculed the analyses and conclusions regarding the role of leader President Saddam Husayn's relatives, particularly Husayn Kamil's role in the strength of the regime and the position of the leader president.

He said: When leader President Saddam Husayn led the 17-30 July Revolution, Husayn Kamil was a child.

When President Saddam Husayn became president in July 1979, Husayn Kamil had the rank of a second lieutenant. Therefore, it would be ridiculous to think that a leader such as leader President Saddam Husayn draws his strength in leading the country from such a person.

Tariq 'Aziz said: President Saddam Husayn draws the basic elements for his leadership from the Iraqi people's love for, and confidence in him; from the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party; and from the love and support of all Iraqi nationalists, and not from certain individuals, be they his relatives or others. If his relatives are members of the Party and offer good services to the country, then they can enjoy respect and appreciation, and will be given the powers that will allow them to fulfill their tasks. But when one of them deviates or betrays, such as the case with Husayn Kamil, he, as I have said, will lose all his influence, and this does not change anything regarding conditions in the country.

Asked by INA about the relationship between Husayn Kamil's treason and defection on the one hand, and the dealing between Iraq and the UN Special Commission and the UN Security Council on the other, Tariq 'Aziz said: Husayn Kamil was in charge of the administration of the military industrialization program and he did not have any connection to the political decisionmaking regarding dealing with the UN Security Council and the Special Commission. The management of this relationship is the responsibility of the political leadership. I have represented, and still represent the leadership in managing this relationship. Therefore, there will be no change, from a political viewpoint, in this relationship.

Tariq 'Aziz ridiculed the U.S. hallucinations on possible Iraqi threats against Jordan because Husayn Kamil defected to it. He said: This is mere nonsense. He denied any unusual military movements in Iraq.

Press Calls Hasan 'Traitor'

JN1208091795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0650 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 12 Aug (INA)—The Iraqi newspapers have reaffirmed that President Saddam Husayn's message to the Iraqi people yesterday has expressed the most significant meanings, illustrations, and examples of known cases from the various eras of history in which human, militant, and family relations were disavowed. In today's editorials, the Iraqi newspapers noted that traitors will not stop Iraq's march of progress and awakening.

AL-QADISIYAH, which is specialized in military affairs, describes President Saddam Husayn's message as the message of greatness, absolute purity, and tolerant messianic values which can only be written by great leaders who are chosen by Almighty God for great messianic tasks.

AL-QADISIYAH says: The Iraqis know full well President Saddam Husayn's chivalry, respect for good deeds, unique characteristics, and endurance in his endeavor to please his people, end their concerns, and ease their suffering.

The newspaper notes that many Iraqis who lived with President Saddam Husayn at some stages of his leadership, [know] how he gave honorable opportunities for citizens and for Ba'th strugglers to serve their people and nation. Traitor Husayn Kamil took a good share of these opportunities.

AL-QADISIYAH says: President Saddam Husayn has endured, thanks to his great tolerance, much of this traitor's reckless behavior as well the behavior of some people like him.

AL-QADISIYAH adds: This midget traitor has reciprocated kindness by extreme insult at the most difficult time, and goodness by the most disgusting ingratitude.

The paper asserts that Husayn Kamil has abused benevolence by slipping into the abyss of treason and turned into a poor soul living on ill-gotten money to the detriment of honorable Iraqis. He has turned into a servile slave and agent for foreigners.

AL-QADISIYAH concludes by saying that Ba'thists and Iraqis are the inexhaustible well spring of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. They will continue to show gratitude to him for his benevolence and remain ready to sacrifice their lives and precious belongings to redeem him.

For its part, the newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has said that traitor Husayn Kamil has set an example for people

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who lose their balance, go astray, and walk the path of the devil. He has forgotten that had it not been for the care of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, he would have remained a nobody.

The paper adds: Greed has killed Husayn Kamil. His contemptible arrogance has led him to the abyss of imagination and delusions that caused him to nurse illegitimate and illegal ambitions exposed over the past few days.

The paper goes on to say: What has happened should not make us lose confidence in others. As a matter of fact, what has happened should promote our faith that it is the principles of justice and fairness that settle such issues, and that this episode is merely a dishonorable exception that should not blind us to the fact that the overwhelming majority of the people are loyal to the leader and principles, and determined to proceed along the path of straightforwardness and national honor.

The paper says that the exposure of this traitor is helpful, because his remaining in charge of his previous duties would have caused immense material and moral damage under inappropriate circumstances. Moreover, he could have engaged in internal sabotage activities that might have aggravated the impact of the blockade.

For its part, AL-'IRAQ says that history's dustbin is the appropriate place for all those who betrayed the trust and pledge, stabbed the homeland and patriotism, and extended their hands—in humiliation—to shake the hands of those who harbor evil against Iraq, its land, and its people.

AL-'IRAQ says: Husayn Kamil and all the midgets like him must know that they are not worth the cigarette butt thrown in the gutter and that the militant march led by mujahid Saddam Husayn will continue its course, plans, and programs to build a country which the world will look at with admiration, astonishment, and pride.

The paper says: Husayn Kamil has committed a double crime. He betrayed the trust and seized the money of people who are under siege. Thus, he has stolen morsels of bread from the mouths of millions of Iraqis, who are suffering from the injustice and impact of the unjust blockade imposed by the enemies of God and humanity on our people over the past five years.

AL-'IRAQ notes that Husayn Kamil imagined that his escape and seizure of millions of dollars, which he stole from the food of the militant Iraqi people, will provide him with a life of luxury to indulge in forbidden delights and will turn him into a star in the lounges of agent politicians, who trade in the homeland and its sons. However, after a while he will find himself a subservient, humiliated, and feeble tool on the list of the small agents who are looking for a hole to protect themselves from the looks of the good and faithful ones in our people and Arab nation.

The newspaper says that the lofty Iraqis will continue to move toward the horizons of the free and honorable life, led by the victorious leader Saddam Husayn. What a miserable path Husayn Kamil has chosen! What a miserable fate he has accepted for himself! What miserable disgrace he will find himself in—the disgrace of those who betrayed the pledge of men and who fell into the mud of treason and eternal deviation!

Papers Condemn 'Treason'

JN1308104495 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0745 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 13 Aug (INA)—The Iraqi newspapers have stressed that treason in the case of Husayn Kamil is simply moral blindness before anything else, especially since he was not a struggler who absorbed the spirit of principles and values. Otherwise, he would not have, without reason, fallen into the trap of treason. This is despite the fact that there is no reason on earth which can make one betray his homeland.

In articles published today, the papers said: Through his sick imagination, this traitor imagined himself an important factor in the march of the giant revolution. He has lost control and fallen into the quagmire of agentry and treason where he will remain engulfed in eternal disgrace, cursed by millions of the honest men of the sons of our lofty people.

The newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: Developments throughout a quarter of a century have proved that lofty Iraq and its leader President Saddam Husayn have never been shaken by treasonous acts, which the revolution and its leader have confronted several times.

In an article today titled "The Moral Decline," the paper says: Some sides consider the downfall of Husayn Kamil an opportunity to be seized. So, they began to dream and plan, proceeding from the same illusion this traitor has involved himself in. Their wishes are only a mirage because great Iraq, under its symbol leader Saddam Husayn, will prove that it is a mountain which cannot be shaken by a yellow, weak, and shaky wind.

It adds: By the defection of Husayn Kamil, a fence has collapsed. However, this fence no longer protects the leader as it used to at the beginning. This fence has concealed thousands of true and sincere people who are still rallying round the leader, and who are ready to sacrifice themselves for his sake because he is the leader

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of Iraq who has courageously sailed his ship through huge and rough seas.

The paper says: The people, with their faithful millions, and the party, with its broad qualitative base, constitute the fence of Saddam Husayn. They are his pillars for proceeding toward the future — not Husayn Kamil who has betrayed the trust and bitten the honorable hand which has taken care of him. So, he pushed himself willingly, or through the will of the foreigner, toward the quagmire of treason. The curse of the people and history will continue to chase him until the day of judgment.

The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH asserts that the message President Saddam Husayn addressed to the Iraqi people on 11 August clarified all the allegations that were made, and which will be made, about Husayn Kamil's treason. This message included deep meanings as well as immortal, divine, and historic lessons which will be learned by the coming generations.

In an article today entitled "The Victorious March and the Losing Treason," the paper says: Those who committed treason have only reaped humiliation and eternal shame. The stabs they thought they had dealt to the Iraqi march have returned to their throats, thus making them mere trash in the dustbin of history.

AL-QADISIYAH sheds light on some examples of traitors who were mentioned in President Saddam Husayn's message and who were eternally cursed. They included some who were closest to the prophets, such as Abraham, Noah, Jesus Christ, and Prophet Muhammad, may peace be upon them.

The paper explains that treason is treason and is only committed by those who have sick souls. Only humiliation and shame await those who resort to such losing treasonous action.

AL-QADISIYAH reminds the enemies of Iraq that the victorious march led by President Saddam Husayn is ascending the ladders of glory and that it will strike, with the soles of its feet, all those who try to halt its ascent to glory. Moreover, the Iraqi people are determined to achieve the crossing. The allegations Husayn Kamil will make, at the instructions of those who bought his conscience, will not change facts. Iraq addresses any issue with the ethics and courage of knights.

The paper stresses that the imperialist and Zionist enemies of President Saddam Husayn do not realize that their hostile position means that they are also hostile to each free and honorable Iraqi who belongs to the generation that grew up under the blockade. President Saddam Husayn is not a mere world leader; he is actually a symbol embodying all the courses of struggle through which Iraq and its nation have passed. The achievements that have been realized were mere wishes prior to July 1968.

In another article headlined "The Last Burning Card," the newspaper says: It is not strange for a handful of people, including Husayn Kamil, to tread the path of treason despite the care and confidence they were given by President Saddam Husayn. Also, it is not strange for him to meet kindness with abuse and to attempt to deal his treacherous stab to the leader and to his mujahid people.

The paper wonders: After all that has happened — which is by any measure painful for many considerations — how can we come up with the accurate conclusion or correct diagnosis? Why did all this happen at this time in particular?

It adds: Some people — who find themselves in a position where they are given the confidence and care and put in charge of a certain sector — may deviate from the correct path and commit wrongdoings if they do not have the qualities that would help them remain balanced and find the right path that would lead to further loyalty and thrust to translate this loyalty into practical and concrete steps.

The newspaper adds: Any fair analysis must take into account the fact that lowly persons cannot deal with the correct standards of honor, integrity, and faith. Thus, these people grow arrogant, become blinded with envy or jealousy, or wrongly believe that they have qualities which they actually lack when they start looking for dark alleys. It is at this point that the decline begins.

The paper notes: The net result will be in favor of those who reject treason or believe that they must continue to uphold principles of virtue, honor, and commitment to pledges and accept no other substitute.

Concluding, the newspaper says: It should be recalled that the war with the alliance of evil, led by the United States, has reached its final stages. Final victory will be the lot of Iraq . The alliance considered the illusions and arrogance of this devious bunch as a card they thought they could put to good use. Therefore, the feverish U.S. efforts to harm Iraq has converged with with Husayn Kamil's psychological and physical readiness for betrayal.

Defector Said 'Renegade, Traitor'

JN1408083795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0620 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 14 Aug (INA)— The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has affirmed that whoever leaves Saddam Husayn's camp, regardless of

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his name, color, and kinship, is considered a renegade and a traitor by all standards.

In an article by its chief editor Salah al-Mukhtar, the paper says Saddam Husayn is fighting in defense of the sublime ideals of Arabism, Islam, independence, and the Arab people's legitimate rights to their land and sovereignty.

The paper explains that the Arab situation, especially since 1990, has witnessed the most massive and profound phenomenon of Arab popular solidarity in Arab history with any one single leader, which is the solidarity of Arabs and Muslims with Saddam Husayn.

This phenomenon, the paper asserts, is a spontaneous general Arab referendum which confirms that Saddam Husayn's camp represents the purity of Arabdom, Islam, and sublime humane principles, while the enemies of this camp represent the forces of evil, decadence, and corruption. The paper says: So, whoever falls out of Saddam Husayn's bandwagon will not find anyone ready to cooperate with him other than yesterday's enemies, who themselves are fallen on the national and humanitarian levels, since they neither have conscience nor honor.

AL-JUMHURIYAH affirms that the unprecedented challenges and sufferings which Iraq has experienced over the past five years are no more than the results of U.S. crimes and the persistence of the symbols of evil in annihilating millions of Iraqis prior to annihilating scores of millions of Arabs and hundreds of millions of Muslims.

The paper says that the United States, which has legitimized everything in its dealing with Iraq and pooled all its resources in order to hurt it, has clashed with the greatest and most resolute state of popular steadfastness ever in the history of mankind; a resolute Iraqi determination not to abandon God and principles or accept the shame of reneging on identity, principles, and history and thus become a people who are Godless in their minds and hearts.

AL-JUMHURIYAH emphasizes that Iraq should take firm, resolute steps toward lifting the embargo, saying America's games and small agents and spies will neither change destiny nor divert the historic course which is being forged by the steadfastness of Iraq and the sacrifices of its people.

The paper affirms that the fall of a small traitor, who has always depended on the name of Iraq and its leader, will not change anything other than clearing Saddam Husayn's camp of harmful insects.

West 'Exaggerating' Importance

JN1408084395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0610 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 14 Aug (INA)—The AL-QADISIYAH newspaper has observed that Western, U.S., and Zionist circles have paid great attention to the escape of traitor Husayn Kamil, blowing this issue out of all proportion in order to harm Iraq and its people.

In an article today, the newspaper says that exaggerating the importance of this traitor and his likes is a fantasy and exposed indulgence in illusions. Iraq is a cradle of civilizations and has glorious history. It strongly rejects treason and casts out those who betray it until the day of judgment.

The newspaper adds: Iraq is the only party that has the right to take an appropriate stand toward the treason of this failed, worthless traitor. The wager of the enemies on the card of Husayn Kamil to undermine Iraq's loftiness and its capacity for confrontation and endurance is their own business. This wager is based on illusions and a spirit of enmity deeply seated in their sick minds against Iraq, its people, and leader.

Concluding its article, the paper says: Iraq and its unyielding people are fully aware of what they are doing. They have a quiet mind and an unflinching determination in this difficult time that is the result of U.S. plotting. The one who tries to escape this battle and its turning points is nothing but a bubble that is blown away by the wind.

'Hysterical' U.S. Stand Criticized

JN1408080095 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0632 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 14 Aug (INA)—The AL-THAWRAH newspaper has advised the U.S. Administration not to depend much on the escape of traitor Husayn Kamil and not to deem him a new bargaining chip to further harm the people of Iraq.

In an article today, AL-THAWRAH, which speaks for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says: We must offer some free advice to the United States not to depend much on what it deems as a new bargaining chip, because Husayn Kamil, in reality, is a worthless, useless bargaining chip that could greatly harm, rather than benefit, the one who uses it.

The newspaper strongly criticized the U.S. stand toward the escape of traitor Husayn Kamil, saying this stand was almost hysterical when it expressed its joy over this development. This clearly shows the extent of

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Washington's concern over Iraq's steadfastness and its despair of the possibility of harming its people.

The paper adds: The U.S. propaganda has taken advantage of the escape of Husayn Kamil to escalate its psychological warfare against the Iraqi people under the pretext that this development will prolong the blockade. This is an unrealistic fabrication.

The newspaper asserts that the people of Iraq have grown accustomed to the psychological warfare campaigns and are no longer influenced by these campaigns. For the Iraqi people, the U.S. insistence on maintaining the blockade is a trite practice whether the story of the escape of traitor Husayn Kamil is going to be used or another story will be fabricated.

AL-THAWRAH notes that in its confusion, the West has attributed greater importance to the escape of this traitor than what it deserves, as if the powerful and influential West was waiting for the treason of an Iraqi employee to create all this clamor and fabricate a situation to harm Iraq and its leadership.

Foreign Officials, Media on Meaning of Defection

AL-MUHARRIR on Background

JN1308220795 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 14 Aug 95 p 16

["Exclusive" report from Baghdad and Amman: "Saddam Overlooks Their Defection To Avoid Family Massacre"]

[FBIS Translated Text] News agencies have reported on Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and minerals and supervisor of the Military Industrial Organization [MIO], being relieved of his post as well as on the defection to Jordan by Hasan; his brother Colonel Saddam Kamil, who is affiliated with the Republican Guard; their wives, daughters of the Iraqi president; and some of their supporters. News agencies also reported on Jordan's acceptance of their political asylum and the hospitable reception the Jordanian monarch accorded to them and to the president's daughters.

AL-MUHARRIR has gathered the following information on the subject:

1. A fierce conflict has been raging for some time between the groups surrounding the president from his family and tribe members. This conflict caused sharp differences that became a threat to the regime.

2. The conflict focused recently between 'Udayy Saddam Husayn and the president's son-in-law Staff Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan. Qusayy Saddam Husayn stood on the side of his brother 'Udayy and the other son-in-law of the president [Saddam Kamil] stood on the side of his brother Husayn Kamil Hasan. It has become clear that the president's family was divided and the groups surrounding Saddam entered into a power struggle.

3. Staff Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan proposed, within the family and the tribe, the issue of finding an internationally accepted way out of the crisis between the Iraqi regime and the international community, especially America. He said: It is correct that Iraq is being treated unjustly and brutally and that the international resolutions are being blown out of their proportions. However, all this is an expression of American, Arab, and Gulf rejection of the Iraqi president's regime now that things have reached this far. Staff Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan proposed an acceptable way out to ease the suffering of the Iraqi people. Although he did not define the acceptable way out, his words and stands, however, meant that the Iraqi president should step down voluntarily.

4. The political stands of the president's son-in-law, his proposals regarding the dealing with the UN Special Commission, and his implications caused resentment among the president, the family, and the tribe. 'Udayy Saddam Husayn took a confrontational stand against Husayn Kamil Hasan and hinted at taking punitive measures. He also held Hasan responsible for some mutinies and violations in the military.

5. 'Udayy succeeded in controlling and using the Republican Guard, the nucleus of the president's power. It became clear that his battle would end with the arrest of Husayn Kamil Hasan, something that would have drawn different reactions.

6. Facing this exacerbating situation inside the family, the tribe, and the regime, the Iraqi president found out that he had to relieve his son-in-law and overlook his departure for Jordan to seek political asylum. 'Udayy believed that the defection to Jordan is better than defection to another country because the regime is capable of curbing any move by political refugees or any exploitation of those refugees. It has been said that the condition set by the Iraqi president was that his sons-in-law remain silent and quiet and abandon any hostile activities.

Observers in Arab and Western capitals believe that the defection of the president's sons-in-law, his daughters, and the rest of the group will not pass quietly. They also believe that power struggle inside the family has come to the surface.

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SAIRI'S al-Hakim Comments

NC1208200595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1745 GMT 12 Aug 95

[Interview with Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, by Tehran Radio correspondent Mahdi Hasan; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Hasan] Your Eminence, how would you assess the defection to Jordan of Husayn Kamil Hasan, the former industry minister, chairman of the Military Industrialization Establishment and one of the pillars of the Iraqi government, along with his brother and a group of officers?

[Al-Hakim] In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. We emphasized from the start that there have been real developments taking place in Iraq, that the circle surrounding the regime is eroding, and that the Muslim Iraqi people have begun to take a common stand to confront the regime. We mentioned facts based on precise information and figures. Incidents occurred in al-Ramadi and we said at the time that other incidents would occur. Afterwards, Wathban and 'Ali Hasan al-Majid were expelled from the Interior and Defense Ministries. The defection of Husayn Kamil and a group of officers are a sequel to these incidents, which did not come as a surprise to us. The reasons for the defection are:

1. The Iraqi regime is eroding away from within as a result of internal differences over interests buffeting the family. Saddam recently admitted this.

2. Corruption is rife in all the regime's agencies and departments. The regime has utterly failed to solve problems, particularly since Saddam assumed the premiership. He has failed to solve any problems. On the contrary, the problems have exacerbated in all levels.

3. The way Saddam deals with the Iraqi people and officials surrounding him is difficult. He is unable to get along with anyone, not even his relatives and friends. Past incidents in which Saddam killed his closest friends, such as 'Adnan Husayn and Ghanim 'Abd-al-Jalil, are a case in point. Now it is the turn of his relatives and close aides. No one can put up with Saddam's personality because he views himself as everything, thinking that he is the Iraqi people and he represents Iraq. He imposes himself on the people. No one wants to be a slave of anyone.

[Hasan] Certain people say that Saddam drove these people out to prevent bloodshed within the family because of widening differences between Husayn Kamil and 'Udayy, Saddam's son. Your comment?

[Al-Hakim] There are deep differences within the ruling family. Saddam did not drive these people out; they fled when they felt that they were close to an inevitable death because of Saddam's policy. They felt that they had better confront the regime to extricate the Iraqi people from this tragedy.

[Hasan] As you know, the White House hastened to contact Husayn Kamil in Jordan. How do you explain this step?

[Al-Hakim] The White House, or rather, the United States, always takes advantage of every opportunity to impose its hegemony and control all activities. That is why we exhorted the Muslim Iraqi people to be very vigilant and alert and to continue to work for the sacred goal of saving the Iraqi people from this tragedy and foreign hegemony. The best way to achieve this is through cooperation between the Iraqi Army and the Iraqi people, and by standing in the same rank and working hand in hand to confront the Iraqi regime and prevent any interference by foreign forces in Iraqi domestic affairs.

[Hasan] What is the Islamic opposition's stance on these developments? Has Husayn Kamil contacted yet? He said that he had contacted the opposition parties.

[Al-Hakim] I have not been informed of these contacts. However, I believe that the soundest stance for us is to embark on real field action and confront the regime, because it is now very weak. Any confrontation with the regime will finish it off, God willing, and save Iraq. Therefore, if the Iraqi opposition wants to constitute a real opposition, it must embark on practical actions, make practical plans, and not be content with a few press statements and political groupings here and there.

[Hasan] Thank you.

Neighbors Say 'Beginning of the End'

NC1208171095 Paris AFP in English 1553 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nicosia, Aug 12 (AFP) — Iraq's neighbors predicted on Saturday [12 August] the beginning of the end for the regime of President Saddam Husayn after the defection of several of his family members, including a key general, to Jordan.

"The defection of the daughters of Saddam Husayn and his son-in-laws signals the collapse of the regime and the start of its downfall," the official Syrian daily AL-THAWRAH said.

"Saddam has been hurt deeply and as a result he will become more bloody and more dangerous and will take reprisals," AL-THAWRAH said.

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General Husayn Kamil Hasan fled to Jordan on Tuesday where he was granted political asylum along with his brothers and their wives, both daughters of Saddam. Baghdad accused him of stealing millions of dollars.

"The Iraqi people will suffer the consequences of Saddam Husayn's mental imbalance and will pay for the political, economic and social ruin of the country," it added.

Syria and Iraq are ruled by rival branches of the Ba'th Party. Damascus joined a multi-national coalition which drove Iraqi troops from their seven-month occupation of Kuwait in 1991.

Saudi Arabia, where the anti-Iraq coalition was based, said the defections showed the Iraqi regime was "agonizing," and reflected the imminent "collapse of the group governing Iraq."

The official Saudi newspaper AL-MADINAH, said: "The Iraqi regime, which rests on the family of one man, is near the end of its agony."

It also called on the "people of Iraq and the opposition to assume its responsibility and take over power from inside the country."

Iranian state radio said "opposition to the regime of Saddam Husayn is gaining ground and has now entered the family."

It added that the defections would "undoubtedly reinforce the ranks of those opposed to the regime."

The radio said the army and the ruling Ba'th party were "more vulnerable than ever" after being "considerably weakened by two defeats" in the 1980-88 war with Iran and Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

"Discontent threatens to spread to the general population and notably in the army," it said.

Kuwait praised Jordan for its "heroic stance" and suggested its welcome for Hasan could warm relations with Kuwait which cut off ties with Amman after accusing it of a pro-Iraqi stance in the Gulf conflict.

"Jordan is paying penance for all the wrongs perpetrated on the Gulf countries," the daily AL-WATAN said, adding that Amman was "helping to overturn the government of Saddam Husayn."

"Jordan is an important access route for Iraq. This route could be exploited to strangle the government of Saddam," the paper said.

It quoted Kuwaiti officials as saying Amman's move was an "additional step" towards renewing relations between the two nations.

Paper Says Regime Crisis Critical

MM1408092395 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Aug 95 p 17

[Article by Kamran Qurrah Daghi: "A Sorry State of Affairs for Iraq!"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The only conclusion to be drawn from the flight to Jordan of Husayn Kamil, one of the most prominent members of the ruling Saddam family's inner circle, and his request for asylum is that the intensification in the crisis of the regime has reached a dangerous point, signaling the beginning of the end of the regime, either through total collapse or the fall of the ruling family as a result of a bloody struggle between its members.

The truth is that the current year has witnessed more than one indication of that intensification, which has greatly weakened the excuse spread by many that the continuation of this "unjust" economic, political, and diplomatic blockade has harmed only the Iraqi people, whereas the Baghdad regime has remained healthy and strong and has not budged, and the proof is that Saddam is still in power.

Undoubtedly, the flight of Husayn Kamil (industry minister, chairman of the Military Industries Authority, head of the oil ministry, and husband of Saddam's daughter Raghda) and his brother Saddam Kamil (responsible for Saddam's personal protection and his special prisons known as "disciplinary centers," and one of the few to socialize with the Iraqi president) will have important repercussions which will have a direct influence on the future of the Iraqi regime.

Husayn Kamil is not just another Iraqi official. He is the man Saddam has entrusted with the building of Iraq's military industrial machine and to whom he has given the most critical files relating to national security, including that of the weapons of mass destruction, which the United States is striving to remove and regarding which Chairman of the International Commission Ralph Ekeus is negotiating.

It is only about one month since Saddam's decision to remove his cousin 'Ali Hasan al-Majid from the post of defense minister, a decision that many people thought had been taken in accordance with family balance of power to benefit Husayn Kamil who was subsequently given more extended powers. Some weeks before that, Saddam removed his half-brother Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan from the post of interior minister in a development that was seen to consolidate the powers of his two sons 'Udayy and Qusayy and their ally Husayn Kamil.

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What is worthy of notice in all this is the official Jordanian position. It was the foreign minister himself who announced Husayn Kamil's arrival with his group and the agreement of the Jordanian monarch to grant them asylum, with his emphasis that Amman would never hand back these refugees, as an indication that Baghdad might claim them if it has not already done so.

To sum up, it is possible to agree entirely with the comment made by a Western diplomat that the Iraqi official's flight "is a dramatic event." In fact, this would be the least that could be said. In other words it is very likely that this event will be followed by a chain of events and developments that will not lack drama.

However, the contrast here is that against this dangerous escalation of the Iraqi regime's crisis the state of the Iraqi opposition, both Arab and Kurdish, is dismal indeed. Regrettably, the internal conflict within this opposition and the efforts wasted by these conflicts, especially within the Kurdish movement, do not justify the claim that it has played any part in the hastening of the deterioration of the internal situation of the Iraqi regime and the disintegration of the ruling Tikriti Saddam family.

This truth is cause for even greater sadness, since the disintegration of the Iraqi opposition provides some regional and international circles with justification for their premise that any change in Iraq can only come from within the regime itself. It is more accurate, however, to say that the escalation of the crisis of the Iraqi opposition, especially the continued quarrels between Kurds (instead of the Kurds trying to gain American support to confront Saddam's regime, Washington is having to waste its efforts on ending the silly infighting among them), will make these circles look toward "saviors" from among the likes of Husayn Kamil!

It is a sorry state of affairs indeed for Iraq....

Opposition on Hasan's 'Ability'

NC1308134495 Paris AFP in English 1318 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Aug 13 (AFP)—The Iraqi opposition on Sunday [13 August] cast doubt on the ability of President Saddam Husayn's son-in-law who defected to Jordan to rally a force to overthrow the Baghdad government.

General Husayn Kamil Hasan "was a pillar of Saddam's regime but he did not have much influence in the army or in the Republican Guard," Ahmad Shalabi, head of the opposition Iraqi National Congress, told AFP.

"Saddam created him and made him influential. But we cannot evaluate his ability to mobilize (followers) or measure his appeal to the Iraqi people," Shalabi said.

Hasan told reporters on Saturday that he was gathering forces to topple his father-in-law in his first public appearance since fleeing to Jordan with his brother and their wives, Saddam's daughters, on Tuesday.

"Work will be within Iraq and on the level of Arab world to topple the regime of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn," Hasan said.

"We have contacts with officials within Iraq and outside Iraq and with residents inside and outside the country," he said. "We found them very responsive" to working against Saddam.

He called on all branches of the military and civil servants to "prepare for this important change which will make Iraq a modern nation."

But Shalabi doubted that call would have much resonance.

Hasan, a former industry minister, "was promoted to general by Saddam although he had no military training, which angered officers. That's why he has little influence in the military."

But General Wafiq al-Samarra'i, former head of Iraqi military intelligence, said: "The Iraqi people hope to save themselves and overthrow Saddam. We have no objection to someone who can perform this duty."

Hasan "was one of the key members of the regime. But if he believes in democracy and can save the country, the people will back him," al-Samarra'i said from Damascus. He added that he "supported" Hasan's call.

Diplomats in the region said Hasan and his brother Saddam Kamil, a colonel in the Republican Guard, could have worked more effectively if they had stayed in Baghdad.

The brothers "were so powerful that they represented one of the few chances to topple Saddam because of their privileged status and their family ties to the president," one said.

"It's in Baghdad itself where he should have made the attempt, not in exile where his chances are practically nil," he added.

Another diplomat predicted the Iraqi people would "pay the price of (Hasan's) defection" because the authorities "will necessarily become much more harsh."

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Experts on Iraq were skeptical of Hasan's depiction of himself on Saturday as a long-time internal critic of Saddam's policy finally pushed by conscience to flee.

"Everyone knows the role played by General Hasan in the repression of Iraqis. It is hard for him now to tell the world he often criticised it while in power."

Shalabi said Hasan feared for his life after a dispute with Saddam's son 'Udayy, notorious for his brutality. Hasan called for providing the United Nations with all information on Iraq's prohibited arms program, but 'Udayy wanted to keep certain information to use as leverage, he said.

Hasan was at various times defence minister and head of one of the intelligence services, as well as the chief of the powerful Military Industrialization Agency, which planned the buildup of Iraq's arsenal.

Shalabi questioned the general's commitment to democracy. Hasan "did not specify the nature of the future rule that would be installed in Iraq after Saddam's fall," he said on Saturday after the press conference.

"He did not say that he was in favor of democratic, pluralist or parliamentary rule, human rights, the rights of Kurds or an end to the aggressive policy against neighboring nations," the INC head said.

Defectors Reportedly To Seek Asylum in U.S.

NC1308203795 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Informed sources say that the daughters of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and their husbands wish to apply for political asylum in the United States. The sources add that the defection of Saddam's sons-in-law and his daughters resulted from the increasing powers and influence of 'Udayy, Saddam's eldest son.

Iraqi opposition sources in London have stated that Barzan al-Tikriti, Saddam's half-brother who oversees Saddam's funds and assets abroad, recently refused to obey a presidential decree to return to Iraq. The opposition sources add that the Iraqi authorities have placed Major General Kamal Mustafa al-Tikriti, commander of the Iraqi Republican Guard's 1st Brigade, under house arrest.

INC Says 'Udayy Threatened Saddam Son-in-Law's Life

NC1208160095 Paris AFP in English 1429 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Aug 12 (AFP)—The son-in-law of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn fled to Jordan after a dispute with Saddam's son 'Udayy put his life in danger, an opposition leader said on Saturday [12 August].

Husayn Kamil Hasan, former head of Iraq's powerful military industrialization organization, called for providing the United Nations "with all information on Iraq's prohibited arms programs," Ahmad Shalabi told AFP from London.

But 'Udayy wanted "to keep certain information to use as leverage in negotiations with the United Nations," said Shalabi, the head of the main opposition coalition, the Iraqi National Congress (INC).

Saddam's eldest son felt the leverage was needed "because the United States would never allow the lifting of the embargo" imposed on Iraq after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, Shalabi said.

The United Nations demands a full accounting of Iraq's nuclear, chemical and biological weapons program before ending sanctions. The United States and Kuwait have made additional demands, including the release of all Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq.

"Husayn Kamil realized that his life was threatened because of the conflict with 'Udayy," notorious for his brutality, "so he chose to flee," Shalabi said.

Shalabi said revelations by Hasan could "remove any possibility of the embargo being lifted."

As industry minister, Kamil was one of the architects of Iraq's arsenal of weapons of mass destruction.

Officials from the United States, eager for Kamil's secrets, met with the general after he, his brother and their wives, two of Saddam's three daughters, were granted political asylum by Amman on Thursday.

Shalabi said Saddam's half-brother Watban Ibrahim Hasan was seriously injured in the legs on August 8 in Baghdad by 'Udayy's bodyguards after a disagreement with the Iraqi leader's eldest son.

The newspaper BABIL, run by 'Udayy, said Watban was accidentally hurt by individuals shooting rounds of ammunition in the air in celebration. Watban was sacked in May from his post as interior minister.

"The situation is very tense in Baghdad, but Saddam and his family control the situation," Shalabi said.

He said the Republican Guard and elite troops had been deployed at sensitive points in and around the capital, especially around the presidential palace and the radio station.

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Shalabi said Hasan had only limited influence in the army, adding that Qusay, Saddam's younger son, controls the special forces and the Republican Guard.

But Hasan's defection would affect "negotiations with Western oil companies, particularly with the French, which he directed personally," he said.

Several foreign oil companies have sought to strike contracts with Baghdad in expectation of the lifting of sanctions.

"But we must not forget that it was Husayn Kamil who destroyed Karabala' and the (Shiite) holy sites" south of Baghdad during Shiite insurrections in early 1991.

Hasan was minister of defense at the time of the uprisings which followed the ejection of Iraqi occupying forces from Kuwait in February 1991.

Saddam's Daughters Allegedly 'Drugged' by Husbands

NC1308200195 Paris AFP in English 1933 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Aug 13 (AFP)—Iraq said Sunday [13 August] the two daughters of President Saddam Husayn who defected to Jordan did not go voluntarily but were drugged by their husbands.

A source within the state-run General Union of Iraqi Women told AFP they "had solid information that Raghad and Rana Saddam Husayn did not leave Iraq of their own accord but were drugged."

The union has asked to see the women and has sent messages to "Arab individuals and organizations as well as international ones" for help in this effort, the source said.

"The union has also asked that the president's two daughters be allowed to meet with reporters to assure that they are safe and of sound mind, and to know their feelings about what their husbands have done," the source added.

General Husayn Kamil Hasan, his brother Colonel Saddam Kamil and their wives, Raghad and Rana, both daughters of the Iraqi president, fled to Jordan Tuesday along with their children and some 30 other people.

Amman granted them asylum on Thursday.

Hasan, who vowed at a press conference Saturday to topple the government in Baghdad, holds a potential wealth of information for the West. He was Iraq's industry minister, head of the powerful military industrialization organization and considered the main architect of Iraq's advanced weapons programs.

"International law prohibits violence against women," the union source said, adding that "it denounced the inhuman methods used by Husayn Kamil and Saddam Kamil."

Hasan is the only one of the group of defectors to have made a public appearance.

Hasan al-Majid Cables Support to Saddam

JN1208221795 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 2050 GMT 12 Aug 95

[Unscheduled announcement]

[FBIS Translated Text] Respected viewers, God's blessings and peace be upon you. The President Leader Saddam Husayn, may God support and protect him, has received the following letter from Comrade 'Ali Hasan al-Majid.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. As to those who reject faith, it is the same to them whether thou warn them or do not warn them, they will not believe. Fain would they deceive Allah and those who believe but they only deceive themselves and do not realize it. In their hearts is a disease; and Allah has increased their disease and grievous is the chastisement they incur because they lied to themselves. These are they who have bartered guidance for error but their traffic is profitless and they have lost the direction. [Koranic verses]

President Leader, struggling comrade, symbol of dignity and pride, the Great Saddam Husayn, May God support and protect him. O symbol of pride, the balance of justice, O pride of glorious Iraq. Ever since we feasted our eyes by the immortal meeting with you at that chaste spot of the beloved homeland and ever since the people have known you as that tall young man who loved the sword and the horseback from his boyhood, we realized and the people realized that God has granted Iraq and the nation the promised historic leader. The nation brings forth its heroes and history makes its men.

By your birth, Sir, the dialectical formula has been reaffirmed; namely that there has always been a deep interaction between the nation and its great leaders since the beginning of the message of the prophet until the age of the [prophet's] grandson Saddam Husayn. In the early history of the nation, the entire nation's life was epitomized in one man, the great prophet, may God's peace and blessings be upon him. Likewise, the entire Arab nation is united by its leader and sincere son, Saddam Husayn. Today, Sir, when Iraq raises its head in pride because of you, honored in its victory over the enemies, and when Iraq's struggling people stand united behind your wise leadership, we fully realize the

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significance of the symbolic leader's effective presence in Iraqi and Arab life.

The masses have felt his great love and his patience and perseverance while waging battles of honor and epics of liberation in defense of the values and principles and the honor of Arab history so that Iraq might remain a fortress of steadfastness, a gate for victory, and a symbol for upholding the truth.

Therefore, the relationship of connection and cohesion among the party, the people, and the leader Saddam Husayn, has born fruit by mobilizing all the people's resources in the unity, in the great steadfastness, and in the great ability of the people of Mesopotamia and their brave Armed Forces which made its great victory on 8 August 1988; and in the unity of jihad in the immortal Mother of Battles, in which the leader, may God protect him, led the ranks, armed with a tested and tried people, a brave army, and an extraordinary personal courage and with unlimited faith in God and the people. From you, Sir, and from your great school, we learned principles and believed in the Ba'th Party as our path. We believed that life is epitomized in a proud stand, that dignity is worthier than a loaf of bread, and that martyrdom is the gate of victory, a door open toward the heavens, that facing death is better than fleeing before it, that death is better than a despicable behavior.

He who does not triumph over himself cannot triumph over his enemies. For to be true to yourself is the greatest value one can have, and dead is he who loses values of manliness. And he who is incapable of carrying the burden of the trust or who betrays it has a dead conscience. This is, Sir, what we and our people have learned in the school of leader Saddam Husayn. We, therefore, should do what you always tell us to do; to reconsider our positions so that we see life balanced before our eyes, and to promote the absolute, or semi-absolute, purity.

O lofty mountain, O glory of Iraq: By God, we have always found you in the most difficult conditions a roaring lion and a courageous horseman, one of the few true men. Your hand, in which there is always a victory, glamorizes every sword and banner it holds.

If certain souls are shaken and overcome by the devil and his temptations and forget the leaders's kindness and fatherly care after he has given them so much, on the basis of one's duty toward his relatives, we feel grieved and greatly wounded when we see a person, who does not even deserve his name and who lived under the wing of the leader, renouncing the glorious Iraq, which is feared by the world, and forgetting the love of Iraq, the water of Iraq, and the air of Iraq. The person called Husayn Kamil thus fell into the quagmire of vice and followed the path of treason, to which he was driven by a soul overwhelmed by evil, to commit the unforgettable crime.

Although his sinful act has left a deep wound on the lips and in the soul, your wise message to our loyal people and the immortal values, correct cases from history, and brilliant examples were the cure to that injury. From your patience we derive our patience, and from your determination we derive strength. Although the traitor Husayn Kamil belongs to an Iraqi family, this small family within Iraq denounces his cowardly act and strongly rejects the treason, which he has committed and which can only be cleansed by inflicting punishment on him in accordance with the law of God. We say this before God and our great people: We declare that we renounce the thief of the people and the betrayer of the mission, the principles of the party, and the leaders's confidence. His family has unanimously decided to permit with impunity the spilling of blood. In the equality there is saving of life to you, O you men of understanding. [Koranic verse]

Long live leader Saddam Husayn, a hope for Iraq and a refuge for the Arab nation. God grant you His victory and support you as commander of the ship toward the inevitable crossing, God willing.

And do thou be patient, for thy patience is but with the help from God; nor grieve over them and distress not thyself because of their plots. For God is with those who retrain themselves, and those who do good. [Koranic verses]

[Signed] For the family that renounced the traitor of the people: Comrade 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, your comrade in the march and your loyal soldier

[Dated] 12 August 1995

SAIRI Begins 'More Vigorous Confrontation' With Regime

JN1308164795 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1410 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, SAIRI, has said in recent statements that Jordan's acceptance to grant political asylum in Amman to former Minister of Industry and Minerals Husayn Kamil Hasan, is yet another factor of the pressure against the Saddamist regime—pressure in which the Iraqi people are playing a key role. He noted that our people have entered into a more vigorous confrontation with the regime with serious repercussions on the tyrant and his blood-thirsty regime.

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'Udayy Said in Charge of Special Security, Elite Forces

JN1208194995 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1415 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sources of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] said on Friday, 11 August, that the tyrant has urgently appointed his idiot son 'Udayy as official in charge of special security and placed under his command the so-called elite forces to protect the Baghdad security against any new developments after the defection of the tyrant's two sons-in-law Husayn Kamil Hasan and Saddam Kamil Hasan and their wives.

SAIRI sources from Baghdad say that the tyrant forces immediately set inspection posts in various areas of Baghdad and that parts of these forces were deployed in the al-Mawsil [Ninawa] and al-Basrah governorates because of the serious threat to the tyrant's regime and because of the Iraqi opposition factions' heavy presence in these governorates.

SAIRI sources say that last Thursday [10 August], the tyrant panicked and placed Staff Major General Kamal Mustafa al-Tikriti under house arrest. Al-Tikriti had been the commander of the Republican Guards 1st Division until Husayn Kamil's defection. The tyrant fears that this officer is involved in new defections because of his familial ties with the criminal Saddam. Kamal Mustafa's mother is the sister of criminal 'Ali Hasan al-Majid and his brother Ahmad Mustafa is married to Saddam's youngest daugther Hala. They are closely connected with General Husayn Kamil and his brother.

Political sources say that the tyrant took this step to obtain secrets known to Major General Mustafa pertaining to the recent defections.

Former Intelligence Chief Says Elite Troops in Baghdad

NC1208141595 Paris AFP in English 1312 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Aug 12 (AFP) — Elite army units have been deployed in Baghdad after the defection of part of President Saddam Husayn's family, a former Iraqi intelligence chief said on Saturday [12 August].

Wafiq al-Samarra'i, who lives in Damascus after fleeing Baghdad last year, said large numbers of troops were deployed in the centre of the capital and at major intersections in the city.

"The Special Republican Guard and special troops are deployed in Baghdad and at the principle intersections. The security services are on a state of alert," said al-Samarra'i.

The Special Republic Guard is an elite army unit responsible to maintaining surveillance of public buildings and key points in the capital.

Al-Samarra'i said the defection to Jordan of Industry Minister General Husayn Kamil Hasan and his brother, a senior military officer, with their wives — both daughters of the president — "will soon have destructive consequences for the regime."

A Shiite opponent of Saddam exiled in Damascus, an official of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, said: "The conflicts inside the ruling family have reached an explosive stage."

"There were exchanges of fire on August 8 in front of the presidential palace in Baghdad, after which patrols took control of the area."

The BABIL newspaper, run by Saddam's eldest son 'Udayy, reported this week that a half-brother of the president was accidentally wounded on August 8.

The paper said Watban Ibrahim Hasan, the former interior minister who was sacked by the president in May, was wounded by another family member during a ceremony marking the end of the 1980-88 war with Iran.

He is on very bad terms with 'Udayy, according to opposition leaders.

'Aziz Says Ready To Give Information to UN, IAEA

JN1308095995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 13 Aug (INA)— Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz today, Sunday, disclosed that traitor Husayn Kamil has played a premeditated role in disturbing the relationship between Iraq and the Special Commission and in obstructing the closure of files.

In a statement to INA, 'Aziz added that Kamil's behavior was part of the conspiracy against the people of Iraq and was meant to provide pretexts to the United States to achieve its aims from prolonging the embargo and plotting against Iraq and its national leadership.

He said that in his capacity as director of the Military Industrialization Organization [MIO], Lieutenant General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid today sent a message to Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the Special Commission, and to Dr. Hans Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA], informing them about this matter and about Iraq's readiness to convey to them

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the information Husayn Kamil has premeditatedly withheld from the Special Commission and the IAEA.

'Aziz addressed an urgent invitation to Ekeus to visit Baghdad. He addressed a similar invitation to the IAEA.

Tariq 'Aziz added: Following the escape of traitor Husayn Kamil, serious information was revealed to us explaining an important aspect of the conspiracy plan this traitor was preparing.

He said: After the escape of this traitor and after his betrayal was disclosed to the leader and the homeland, a number of specialists in the MIO told their superiors that Husayn Kamil had ordered each of them separately to withhold a significant part of the information on previous programs from the United Nations and to abstain from relaying this information to officials in charge of administering the relationship with the Special Commission and the IAEA. He told these specialists that his orders to them were directed by the higher authorities and threatened them with the severest punishment if they disobeyed his orders.

Tariq 'Aziz added that Iraq agreed to fulfill its obligations in accordance with Resolution 687 and has no interest in withholding any information on previous programs that ceased to exist or were destroyed.

Weapons Disclosure Offer 'Desperate'

NC1308153995 Paris AFP in English
1510 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Aug 13 (AFP)—Iraq offered Sunday [13 August] to disclose weapons secrets because it teared a defector would reveal them first and ruin any chance of lifting economic sanctions, an opposition leader said.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz said Sunday that Baghdad had witheld weapons secrets from the United Nations but blamed the decision on former industry minister Husayn Kamil Hasan who defected to Jordan last week.

'Aziz said top UN officials had been invited to Baghdad immediately to obtain the secrets.

"It's a desperate attempt to save the regime by circumventing Husayn Kamil, who knows the details of all the armament programs," 'Aziz Al-yan, a member of the Executive Council of the opposition Iraqi National Congress, told AFP when contacted in London.

Senior U.S. officials have met in Amman with Hasan, considered the mastermind of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction programs, to try to obtain military information he might have, Western diplomats said.

Al-yan said Hasan had often travelled to the United States, Europe and Chili in the 1980s to buy weapons.

Iraq said it had given a final report on its germ warfare program to Rolf Ekeus, the head of the UN Special Commission on disarming Iraq, when he visited Baghdad at the beginning of the month.

But Ekeus, who has described the germ warfare issue as the sole major obstacle to lifting the embargo, said later that the report was incomplete.

'Aziz said Iraq had urged Ekeus and Hans Blix, the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, to visit Baghdad "urgently" and obtain the information "hidden" by Hasan.

'Aziz said the former defense minister had withheld secrets because he wanted to give Washington a pretext for maintaining the sanctions that were imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

IBC Reports Saddam Recall Order to Half-Brother

LD1108184895 London Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation Press Release in English
1748 GMT 11 Aug 95

[Received by fax]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Salahuddin, Iraq (11 August)—An IBC correspondent in Baghdad reports that Barzan al-Tikriti, half-brother to Saddam Husayn, who is in charge of the dictator's finances and business affairs abroad, has refused an order from Saddam Husayn to return to Iraq. The recall order was issued on 10 August following the defection of Husayn Kamil Hasan, Saddam Kamil Hassan and their families.

It should be noted that all of Barzan's possessions in Iraq were confiscated two months ago by Saddam's sons 'Udayy Saddam Husayn and Qusay Saddam Husayn. [sentence as received]

Reportedly Plotting Against Saddam

NC1208153995 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A prominent Iraqi official working in a UN office in Vienna has disclosed that he received a telephone call last night from Barzan al-Tikriti [Saddam's half-brother] who briefed him on the serious developments in Iraq following the defection of Husayn Kamil, his brother, and Saddam Husayn's two daughters to Jordan. The official, who requested anonymity, has long-standing ties with Barzan in connection with his long experience with world banks and his contacts with U.S. oil companies. He said that Barzan had expressed his resentment at the deterioration of the economic and

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political situation in Iraq and his dissatisfaction with 'Udayy's excesses, which have caused a rift within the ruling family. Sources cited Barzan as urging action to prevent a collapse in Iraq, in a clear sign of his desire to replace the current regime in Baghdad.

Our radio has learned that Barzan is in contact with U.S. diplomats at UN headquarters in Geneva in an attempt, it seems, to stay clear of the crimes that his half brother Saddam has committed, particularly during the invasion of Kuwait. Barzan has realized that the U.S. plan, which has been implemented in stages, has succeeded in tightening the Iraqi ruler's isolation. This situation has increased resentment of him in Iraq, even within the ruling family, and has brought his end closer.

Republican Guard Commander Said Under House Arrest

NC1208145695 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to arrivals from Iraq, Staff Major General Kamal Mustafa al-Tikriti, commander of the First Corps of the Republican Guard, has been under house arrest since 10 August. Maj. Gen. al-Tikriti has strong family bonds with Saddam Husayn. His mother is the sister of 'Ali Hasan al-Majid. His sister is the sister [as heard] of Husayn Kamil. His brother Ahmad Mustafa al-Tikriti is the husband of Saddam Husayn's youngest daughter.

The arrivals said that after the defection of Husayn Kamil and Saddam Kamil to Jordan, Maj. Gen. Kamal Mustafa has become a big embarrassment, so he has been placed under house arrest for fear that he might defect.

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Rabin Supports King Husayn on Iraqi Defectors

TA1308085095 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 13 Aug 95 p 12

[Report by Smadar Peri and the Army affairs correspondent in Amman]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] Senior sources in the Israeli defense establishment yesterday said: "General Husayn Kamil is a serious man with incredible organizational powers who has supervised large-scale construction operations. Those who have been following the reports about him have a lot of appreciation for him. He was cognizant of everything."

The sources also say they believe Saddam Husayn's sons contributed to his decision to defect. "Apparently Gen. Husayn Kamil has become convinced that this is a lunatic regime that is on a collision course and wanted to save himself," the sources assess. He has become convinced that Saddam's method is to kill or get rid of his associates.

The sources add that the defection is surprising and that nobody in Israel knew about it or assessed that this man could defect. "It is assessed that Gen. Husayn Kamil planned his defection together with Jordan."

[A related report by the Smadar Peri on pp 8 and 9 of the same issue comments on international reactions to Husayn Kamil's defection. The report adds: "At a certain stage Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin was brought into the picture. Both Clinton and Rabin promised King Husayn "maximum support" in case Saddam Husayn's long and avenging arms try to undermine the stability of the Jordanian regime."]

Israeli sources also say Iraq has economic leverage on Jordan, because it can stop the flow of oil. Iraq can harm Jordan economically, but the West will extricate it. Israel hopes the defectors will reveal Iraq's armament program in its entirety. "It has recently transpired that Iraq has biological weapons. Iraq has admitted this after evading the issue for years." [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry: Saddam Regime 'Stable Enough'

TA1308155295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Here in Jerusalem, the Foreign Ministry considers Saddam Husayn's regime as stable enough and believes it will not be undermined in the wake of the defection of his two sons-in-law. The ministry says that the Iraqi ruler suffered a shock but not a death blow.

Official Cited on U.S. Aid for Iraqi Defections

TA1408061695 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Aug 95 p 1

[Report by Alon Pinkas]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The defections to Jordan of Lt.-Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan, the Iraqi military industries minister, and his brother, Col. Saddam Kamil Hasan, were coordinated with and assisted by the U.S., a senior Israeli security assessment official said yesterday.

The official added that the U.S. had alerted King Husayn to the planned defection at least a week ago and obtained his consent to accept the Iraqis in advance.

"Defections of this magnitude do not just happen and are not carried out by the defectors without prior arrangements and some kind of an insurance policy covering personal safety and success," the official told THE JERUSALEM POST.

"Whether or not their wives, Saddam Husayn's daughters, knew all the details is essentially immaterial to the decision itself, which was made by (Husayn) Kamil Hasan only after he was assured by the CIA that the move would be welcomed and rewarded," the official said.

"Does anyone seriously believe that Husayn was surprised to hear of Hasans' request for asylum and that he agreed because he is such a compassinate man?" the official continued. "To the best of my knowledge, the U.S. guaranteed its assistance to Jordan and President Clinton made a public pledge of support after Husayn demanded that a 'deterence statement' be made. All this was agreed upon before the defection took place."

Over the weekend, President Clinton ordered the US aircraft carrier Theodore Roosevelt to proceed to the eastern Mediterranean. Yesterday, 2,000 US Marines landed in al-'Aqabah and will commence joint exercises with the Jordanian Army, in a clear show of political and military support.

Rabin, Peres Comment on Accord With Palestinians

TA1308183095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Speaking at the cabinet meeting today, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said the negotiations with the Palestinians will go on for many more weeks. He said no maps have been presented at the negotiations so far, and the size and exact location of the West Bank's rural area have not been determined. The Palestinians will be in charge of civil affairs in this area and the Palestinian Police will be in charge of public

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order. All the military installations, including war reserves storehouses, will remain in place in that area, the prime minister added.

In reply to Minister Shulamit Aloni's question as to why Israel refused to turn the heart of the city of Hebron over to the Arab residents of Hebron, the prime minister said that Hebron is a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] city and that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will have to remain inside the city because it cannot make do with deploying around it.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres said at the meeting that we have accomplished a lot, from the standpoint of our defense needs as well, without having defeated the Palestinians.

Cabinet Approves Taba Accord; Rabin Warns Against Dissent

TA1308151895 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1450 GMT 13 Aug 95

[Report by political correspondent Udi Segal]

[FBIS Translated Text] As expected, the cabinet has endorsed the Taba agreement by a majority. Only one minister expressed opposition to the agreement. Energy Minister Gonen Segev voted against the agreement. Two ministers, Ehud Baraq and Shim'on Shetrit, abstained. Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur withdrew his reservations after it was made clear to him that U.S. officials will not be part of the committee dealing with the substantive aspects of the water issue but will only participate in a committee on economic projects.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said that any minister who opposes the agreement or has abstained and refuses to accept the government's collective responsibility must draw the appropriate conclusions and resign. In other words, any minister who continues to speak out against the agreement despite the fact that the cabinet approved it by a majority is expected to go home.

We asked Minister Segev about this, and he replied that it does not apply to him because he accepts collective responsibility for the decision and will support the agreement in public. Segev admitted that he had reservations and had voted against the agreement but vowed to support the government and its decision in public. This is apparently also the case with regard to the two ministers who abstained: Shim'on Shetrit and Ehud Baraq.

[A similar report on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 13 August adds that "Minister Shulamit Aloni said Israel could have shown more magnanimity toward the Palestinians on the Hebron issue and freedom of movement on the roads. Police Minister Moshe Shahal, who is a member of the team negotiating with the Palestinians, said that as far as the security aspects are concerned, the present agreement is better than the Camp David accords.

["Meanwhile, Labor Knesset Members [MK's] Avigdor Qahalani and 'Imanu'el Zismann announced that they will not support the agreement with the Palestinians if it is brought before the Knesset. MK Zismann added that if the agreement is not presented to the Knesset for approval, early elections will have to be held.

["Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel reports that the leaders of the Third Way movement have again urged the government to launch immediate negotiations on the permanent arrangement."]

Rabin Decides Not To Submit Accord to Knesset

TA1408043195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has decided not to submit the agreement signed with the Palestinians in Taba to the Knesset for approval. Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel reports that the prime minister believes these are the principles which will guide the delegations in the negotiations. On the other hand, the prime minister may bring the full interim agreement to the Knesset for approval once it is completed, but no decision has yet been made on the issue.

The Likud demands that the prime minister submit each stage of the agreement to the Knesset for approval.

Rabin Says Oslo B Ends Greater Israel 'Delusion'

TA1408084195 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Aug 95 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The next phase of the Oslo accord constitutes a "mighty blow to the delusion of Greater Israel," Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told the cabinet yesterday.

The comment came during a three-and-a-half hour discussion that culminated with the cabinet backing the joint statement agreed on last week by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in Taba, which resolved some key sticking points blocking expanding autonomy throughout the areas.

The statement was approved 15-1, with the negative vote cast by Energy Minitser Gonen Segev. Interior Minister Ehud Baraq and Religious Affairs Minister Shim'on Shetrit abstained.

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At several points during the session, Rabin vigorously defended the principles listed in the statement, laying aside the ambiguity that has often characterized his approach to talks with the Palestinians.

Charging that settler critics have cloaked ideological concerns in security garb to maximize public sympathy, Rabin said:

"There is a certain group in the nation — whose size remains unknown — for whom the second phase (of the Oslo accord) is a mighty bloc to the delusion of Greater Israel. This process will make it difficult to return to this delusion of Greater Israel, assuming it was ever realistic in the first place. "These people now prefer to concentrate on the issue of security, because they know this is not just their problem, but of all citizens," he said. "This government does not believe in Greater Israel, nor does it want to rule another people."

The premier voiced anger at complaints that the government does not have a vision for where it is heading with the Palestinians. However, he did not provide a full blueprint, saying: "We want Jerusalem, we want the Jordan River to be our security border, and we want other areas here and there."

All ministers deeply involved in the negotiations — Rabin, Peres, Environment Minister Yosi Sarid and Police Minister Moshe Shahal — insisted the principles arrived at last week were good for both sides. "The deal kept the following in Israeli hands: 73% of the lands of the territories, 97% of security, and 80% of the water," Peres said.

Rabin also said the cabinet must take ultimate responsibility for the outcome of the talks, adding that any minister who wants to publicly criticize the agreement with the Palestinians should resign. The premier's remarks come on the heels of reported criticism of the agreement by OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Ilan Biran during security consultations on Friday [11 August], which Rabin headed. Biran reportedly said the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] ability to fight terrorism would be hurt when the Palestinians gain limited security authority over 420 villages.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 14 August in a page A3 report by Yerah Tal adds that "Rabin sought to explain that the political echelon was in charge of formulating a policy which was 'not that of Greater Israel.'" Rabin said: "When fundamental political decisions are made, the army and other professional bodies are asked to provide the best security solution possible within the framework of these decisions. Do not come to the army with complaints.'"

[The prime minister went on to assert that "the decision to reach the Oslo agreement and implement it was a political one. It is possible to hold consultations occasionally but responsibility is ours and I am asking you not to hold the IDF responsible for political decisions."]

Rabin noted that Israel retained "overriding" security authority over the villages. This clause was drafted so the IDF could not just continue to curb terrorism, but would have the power to enter villages even if it suspected there is a "threat of terrorism." [passage omitted]

Negotiators headed back to Elat yesterday for further talks with the Palestinians today. Rabin said he did not mind if the talks continued for "weeks," so there would be care taken in drafting the language of the self rule accord.

Among the issues still unresolved is the IDF redeployment in Hebron.

The army, meanwhile, extended the preventive closure imposed on the Gaza Strip last week until 4 a.m. tomorrow. There was no reason given for this second extension. [passage omitted]

Baraq, IDF Leaders Express 'Reservations' About Accord

TA1308083895 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Aug 95 pp A1, A10

[Report by Yerah Tal]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The cabinet will be called on today to approve the "joint statement" reached by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and Palestinian Authority [PA] Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in their Taba talks and initialed by delegation heads Uri Savir and Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray']. The deliberations on approving the accord begin at 1400 [1100 GMT].

At the deliberations on the joint statement held last Friday [11 August] at the Tel Aviv Defense Ministry office of Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, Interior Minister Ehud Baraq — former chief of staff — and the defense echelon headed by Chief of Staff Amnon Shahaq expressed reservations about the joint statement, especially the clause referring to the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in the rural areas, area B, where 420 Arab villages and most of the Jewish settlements are located.

Under the agreement, parallel to the IDF's departure from six West Bank towns, which will be completed no later than 22 days prior to the elections to the PA's council, the IDF will also be redeployed in

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the rural areas and will hand over to the PA all civilian authorities, including those over land, as well as responsibility for internal security. Israel will, however, keep "overriding authority" over security, whose scope has not been defined in the agreement.

Minister Baraq and the senior defense echelon, in particular the chief of staff, expressed concern that Israel's undertaking to evacuate most of the West Bank villages, in addition to the withdrawal from the large towns, might harm the IDF's ability to deal with terrorism, primarily because it could affect the ability to gather intelligence, as well as the ability to hunt terrorists and initiate preemptive actions inside the villages, which will become the PA's responsibility.

They noted that the concept of Israel's "overriding responsibility" for security is vague and that there could be a need to clarify it further in order to prevent a situation whereby the Palestinians interpret it in a way that creates unnecessary friction and confrontations.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal said that the current definition serves Israel's benefit since it provides it better maneuverability.

Minister Baraq expressed opposition to clauses in the accord referring to the timetable of the IDF's redeployment in area C, which occupies 73 percent of the West Bank. According to Baraq, under the Declaration of Principles [DOP], Israel can hold up the redeployment until the day after the start of the permanent settlement, late 1999, while the Peres-'Arafat agreement shortened it to only 18 months, by July 1997 at the latest.

Baraq warned that that might harm Israel's bargaining capability under the permanent settlement, and expressed concern that the accelerated redeployment could create facts on the ground, which would lead Israel "to yield more than it had been prepared to do."

He also said that the accord could bring Israel closer to the 1967 borders than other proposed borders. He warned against repeating the mistakes he believes were made in the Oslo accord and recommended against rushing to sign the Taba agreement, but only reviewing it.

Shahal sharply criticized Baraq's claim that he treats the Palestinians "like idiots, who can be tricked." Shahal said that the Taba accord corresponds with the DOP, and that what Baraq is suggesting is contrary to the agreement.

Peres said the achievement of the Taba agreement is that the borders of the permanent settlement can be reached without international pressure. Peres said that so as not to harm the permanent settlement, the Taba agreement decided on — following Israeli pressures — only a timetable for redeployment in area C, but did not draw a map and did not decide on the areas to which the army will redeploy. Peres said that when deciding on the areas to which the army will redeploy in the interim period, the permanent borders to which Israel aspires will be taken into account and that for that end, Israel will have to consider soon the character of the permanent settlement and its preferred borders. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 13 August in a page 2 report by Nahum Barne'a and Shim'on Schiffer adds: "The main critics of the Taba accord are Minister Ehud Baraq and Major General Ilan Biran, commander of the Central Command, who reject the agreement out of hand." It says opposition to the agreement is focused on two areas, "one, Gen. Biran's charge that he will find it difficult to defend the settlers, and the second, that of Ehud Baraq that the agreement is leading Israel to the 1967 borders. Rabin, on the other hand, expressed full support for the agreement."

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 13 August adds: "Minister Yosi Sarid told our political correspondent Shlomo Raz that in weekend discussions, IDF [Israel Defense Forces] heads did not say the agreement did not provide adequate defense for the settlements and the settlers."]

Arab Shot in Clash Dies of Gunshot Wounds

TA1308114595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An Arab youth brought to a hospital in Ramallah has died of gunshot wounds. Palestinians told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the youth was shot in a clash between settlers and Arab residents in the Ramallah region. It was earlier reported that Arabs ignited a structure set up by Bet El settlers at the foothills of Mount Artis on the outskirts of the settlement.

Bet El's security officer said that he had fired warning shots in the air after several dozen Arabs ignited the structure and hoisted a PLO flag. The officer added that he had heard other shots. The police are investigating whether there is a connection between the shots and the death of the Arab.

Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that dozens of Arabs demonstrated near Neve Tzuf in the center of Samaria and drew close to an encampment set up by settlers last week. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] evacuated the Arab demonstrators.

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Settlers, Police Clash Over Suspects' Arrest

TA1408055695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Scores of Jewish settlers hurled objects at police last night during a clash in front of the jail in Jerusalem's Russian Compound. Police tried to break up the gathering because they said it was an illegal demonstration.

The settlers were there accompanying the three Bet El residents taken in for questioning following yesterday's shooting near Bet El in which a Palestinian was killed. However, Israel Radio learned that the three were not taken to the Russian Compound. The Bet El secretariat said that one of the three is the security officer for the community and he was just doing his job.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the police were investigating the incident in which the officer was said to have shot in the air, though photographs show him shooting directly at the Palestinian rioters who had destroyed prayer books and other objects at the encampment set up by the settlers.

Paper: Settlers May Remain Under Palestinian Rule

TA1408035295 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Aug 95 p B1

[Commentary by Dan Margalit: "When the Levingers Return"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gush Emunim is a movement that allows both the young generation to assume positions of leadership and the older leaders to return to the fore. On the 20th anniversary of the dramatic establishment of Sebastya, NEQUDA editor Yisra'el Har'el convened settlement veterans for a discussion on what happened then and what may happen in the future.

Some of them are still active settlement leaders, either as minority representatives or as radicals. Moshe Levinger, one of the most prominent activists and the man who transformed the Jewish deployment in the territories, has lain low in the heart of Hebron for several years.

Levinger represents all the facets of settlement. He is its violent and militant facet on one hand, and an astute chess player painstakingly calculating his moves and looking forward to the end of the road on the other.

Qiryat Arba' — the greatest breakthrough of the settlement drive — came to be because Levinger found a way to convince Yig'al Alon "to adopt Ari'el Sharon's methods in a bid to hoodwink his government," according to Hanan Porat's description in NEQUDA.

Jews were not evacuated from the heart of Hebron, contrary to Defense Minister 'Ezer Weizman's opinion, because Levinger, in a show of resolute and astute leadership, forced his colleagues to stop pressuring the Likud government to discuss settlement in the city of patriarchs. Their endeavor was completed at a propitious moment by David Levi.

Levinger caused the Labor and Likud governments their biggest defeats. If there is still no agreement on Oslo B, the reason is the Jewish settlement in Hebron.

His present reticence stems from his belief that the settlers should not have given up entirely on support from within the Labor Party; that the Likud is almost as problematic as Labor; that the religious outlook and political concepts have not been thoroughly discussed since the evacuation of Yamit; and that the desire of men in the field, such as Uri Elitzur from the National Religious Party, to act is good but not enough.

Had they managed to convince Kefar Saba residents that their security would be impaired by the transfer of Qalqilyah to the PLO, they would not have needed the dangerous actions at the intersections and the frustrating invasions of the barren hills they knew in advance they would have to evacuate. As Levinger put it: "The nation still puts peace and demographic issues above Eretz Yisra'el."

In this situation, the settlers' struggle with the new realities of their life will go through a difficult stage: Their leadership will split into groups of those who support violence even if it means shedding blood and those who advocate less prohibitive measures, such as blocking intersections.

But later, after the Oslo B agreement is signed, it will be the era of the Levingers. The government is aware of the radical face of this group, but mistakenly ignores its other face — the realistic one.

The far-sighted among the settlers know there is another option, one they are still prohibited from mentioning even among themselves: A hard-core nucleus of about one-quarter of the settlers will accept an invitation of the kind made by Nasr Yusuf last week and will decide to stay.

Here is the gist of the message: They lived under British rule, and they may do so (until God changes his mind) under Palestinian rule. It is not all that bad, because this time — unlike in the past — they have the State of Israel behind them. When this tough decision is on the agenda, it will be time for the Levingers — the only ones capable of leading such a move, if they so wish, with determination and a lot of charisma — to rise and shine.

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After the evacuation of Yamit, Ge'ula Kohen argued that withdrawal is easier for the religious, because after the debacle, they say it was God's will and proceed toward redemption.

I am not convinced this will be the outcome, but there is a fair chance. The chance will get even better as the situation becomes clearer and if Shim'on Peres hastens to conclude the negotiations with Yasir 'Arafat in the spirit of businesslike progress he accomplished so successfully last week.

Mental preparations for this option are already evident in the field. Mayor Ron Nahman invited Bi'r Zayt students for a visit to Ari'el, and there are numerous reports of dialogues between settlers and Palestinians. Peres says with determination that settlements will remain there forever, under Palestinian rule. Perhaps the inhabitants of a shrunken but substantial settlement drive in Judaea and Samaria will be able to live with this historical outcome until the advent of the messiah.

Judean Voice: Rabin, Peres, Netanyahu Serve Foreign Powers

TA1208151595 (Internet) Judean Voice in English 11 Aug 95

[Unattributed commentary: "People of Israel, Beware!"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The foreign policy of Israel is being directed by financiers, politicians and supporting academics from U.S. and European think tanks. Neither Prime Minister Rabin nor Foreign Minister Peres is making independent decisions: those are being made for them by individuals who live outside Israel.

Rabin — The Washington Puppet

Who is Yitzhaq Rabin? While serving as Ambassador to America between 1968-1972, Rabin came under the heavy influence of the State Department and its Secretary, Dr. Henry Kissinger. Kissinger withheld arms from Israel during the opening days of the Yom Kippur War and would only resupply on condition that Golda Meir resign in favor of Rabin. Why Meir and Moshe Dayan didn't mobilize the troops knowing that an attack was coming has never been convincingly explained by historians. Kissinger's intent was to weaken Israel.

The history of the Middle East conflict isn't about Arabs battling Jews. It's about foreign powerbrokers influencing internal domestic affairs of the peoples in the region. For instance, after the war Rabin and Kissinger redrew the map of the Middle East permitting the Syrians to invade Lebanon, after a civil war was contrived.

Since the late 1960's Rabin has been working for foreign powerbrokers, not for the citizens of Israel. He's not working for Israel's best interests, rather, he is delivering us into the hands of our enemy.

Shim'on Peres: Servant Of The Europeans

While Rabin's allegiance is to Washington, Peres is controlled by European powerbrokers and the Vatican. He became their puppet after his enlistment into the Socialist International in 1976. Perhaps his most sinister relationship is with the Vatican. In April 1994 Peres and his Deputy Yosi Beilin concluded a recognition treaty with the Holy See whose secret clauses included giving the Vatican hegemony over the Old City of Jerusalem before the year 2000.

To achieve a peace treaty with Jordan, Peres secretly promised King Husayn control of the Moslem Holy sites within a Vatican-ruled Old City.

What Do They Want?

What are the goals of the men controlling Rabin, Peres and Beilin?

Hidden powerbrokers in American want to establish an American force on the Golan Heights to serve as a base domination of the region. The men behind Peres in the Vatican want to gain control of Jerusalem in order to herald in a "Messianic Age" under their control beginning in the year 2000. Beilin's masters, the United Nations, want Israel's sovereignty weakened or destroyed so that it will be absorbed into a greater Middle East, subservient to a world central government based at the UN.

In furtherance of this goal, the Oslo agreements were designed to guarantee continued or intensified conflict between Israel and her neighbors by adding an armed PLO element to the equation to the point that an outside party will be forced to intervene to establish order in the region. Conflict in a region always benefits the foreign powerbrokers who want to intervene and manipulate the affairs of countries.

There are secret plots and evil agendas underway to further each of these aims. If we don't act soon, in less than five years these forces will succeed in their plans.

The opposition is not less tainted by the same powerbrokers. Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu was groomed since the days when he worked at the United Nations. He was given a false academic standing as a terrorism expert and his phenomenal rise to power was the direct result of foreign intervention.

What Can We Do?

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We must recognize that foreign power brokers have taken control over our most influential national leaders. We must change our conventional concepts of modern Israeli history and recognize the central role played by secret deals and hidden agendas. We must be prepared to accept conspiracies if the facts support them.

Something very serious has happened since June 1992 when Rabin and Peres took over power. The Israeli people have lost control of their government. As a result we have lost control of our destiny.

People Of Israel Beware: By taking the existence of Israel for granted we have let our guard down. We can no longer be apathetic when our destiny is being endangered by a group of powerful individuals throughout the world who have gained complete control over the actions of our elected leaders. Without concerted action, our country will be defeated.

We must regain our national sovereignty. As responsible citizens we are obliged to demand the resignations of Rabin, Peres and Beilin. To ensure our survival all foreign influences must be purged from our political system.

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Iraq's Husayn Kamil Hasan Holds News Conference

JN1208161095 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1442 GMT 12 Aug 95

[News conference by Husayn Kamil Hasan, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's son-in-law and former minister of minerals and industry, with foreign and domestic correspondents in Amman—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Hasan] First of all I would like to extend my thanks to His Majesty King Husayn for hosting us, for extending aid to Iraq, and for keeping the way to Iraq open. This has been the only road available to Iraq throughout the past 15 years. I would like to extend my thanks to the royal family and to the fraternal people of Jordan, who are known for their generosity and commitment to Arab traditions.

The important thing is that we should shed some light on the past so that we are clear. I worked in the establishment of the special security agency, which is entrusted with the major aspects of security. I also worked in establishing the Special Guard and took part in expanding the Republican Guard. When I assumed the Republican Guard it comprised only one brigade. This brigade was adversely affected by war with Iran. One of the regiments of this brigade had only six soldiers. The second regiment comprised only 24 soldiers. We worked on fleshing out this brigade and on forming other brigades until we had a total of 37 brigades in the Republican Guard.

The role of the Republican Guard in the war with Iran is well known. Iraq's victory was due in the first place to the Republican Guard. Additionally, there has been progress in the military industry.

I was in charge of the Special Security, the Special Guard, the Republican Guard, the military industry, and Iraqi atomic energy. In 1988, I became minister of civil industry. We worked hard, something for which Iraqis are known. We entered into wars: the war with Iran and the second Gulf war. Regrettably, however, there have been some problems. Complications in the administration of the country's domestic affairs as well as in foreign policy led to the deterioration of the situation of Iraq. Iraq's position deteriorated economically and in all other areas.

First of all and given my relationship with President Saddam, I used to explain these problems, shortcomings, and complications that affected the country's situation. However, this wrongful march was not reformed. After the end of the Gulf war, I was appointed minister of defense, in addition to my responsibilities in the Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Oil, and military industrialization.

After a short while, the regional congress of the party was held. My criticism of this march was obvious. The party's cadres were listening carefully. I named the persons who did not carry out the state's job properly and who caused this deterioration and sluggishness in running the affairs of the state. Foremost among these persons was Taha Yasin Ramadan, who was a vice president, [former] Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi, and a number of officials. I spoke clearly enough. I leveled sufficient criticism. Regrettably, again, this erroneous march was not corrected. A number of the leadership's members were angered by these remarks. Five members of the leadership walked out of the congress.

The affairs of the state continued that way. We continued to criticize this situation and to explain that what was happening caused Iraq to lag behind, although Iraq is a rich state and has abundant resources. But the backwardness was there. However, our calls to solve the main and complicated problems and difficulties in the country fell on deaf ears. As a result, I quit the Defense Ministry. Then, a family meeting took place, which included some state officials who are relatives, and the situation was explained in detail. I was asked to reconsider my resignation, but I refused as long as the state policy was not correct and sound, was not helping the society and developing Iraq, and was still causing the backwardness of the country.

I did not go to the office for three months during which continuous meetings were held and there were many calls for me to return to work. There were promises to correct mistakes and overcome existing problems. I returned with a position of adviser to the president, an official in charge of the Military Industrialization Organization, the Ministry of Industry, the Ministry of Oil, the Ministry of Higher Education, atomic energy, and the chairman of the State's Higher Engineering Commission. However, mistakes continued and no change was made. I continued to criticize the situation and to explain things, until this criticism and explanation started to take place during cabinet meetings. Almost at every meeting we had problems, and to explain things, we had to criticize the phenomena that were obstructing the progress of the country. Regrettably, many unjust orders and laws were issued, which impeded the progress of the country. Some instructions were even in violation of the bylaws of the ministries to impede the progress of society. It is common knowledge that Iraq's policy is now in complete isolation.

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It is common knowledge that Iraq's economic situation is sharply deteriorating. We are not being careful about administering the country's affairs; rather, we are complicating our problems with the world. Explanations were made and frank criticism was given during the party conventions and in the cabinet meetings. The conditions of the society have pained us, and we have suffered greatly. Therefore, something had to be done. In view of our kinship with President Saddam, we did not want to have secret work and contacts while in power. We regarded this as shameful. We have decided to work in an open, clear manner and we chose to be guests of his majesty and to have our headquarters to fraternal Jordan and we have been given full care and hospitality which is a great thing for us.

I have given this introduction to clarify the reason we left Iraq, where we are suffering great problems. This in brief is why we left Iraq. We will work continuously and seriously to change the regime in Iraq. We have started contacts with officials in the Iraqi state and outside the state, with those who reside inside and outside Iraq in a speedy manner. We have found them very responsive because of the disgruntled and difficult life in Iraq. We will continue our work.

On this occasion we extend our appeal to the Iraqi Army officers, the officers of the Republican Guard, the Special Guard forces, to the Iraqi civil servants, and to all of Iraqi society, that they should be prepared for this important change which will make Iraq a modern state which deals with the international community in a realistic manner and deals with the Arab community in a good and great interaction. We will eliminate differences and problems with all Arab states, with all world states, and we aim to establish modern relations beneficial to Iraq and the world. We want to get rid of obstacles to modernizing the society.

I am certain that the entire Army, Republican Guard, and Special Guard officers are aware of the meaning of this appeal. They know my role in building the Republican Guard and the Army and are aware of my resources in righting wrongs and building an important country. The state civil servants and the Iraqi people are aware of who is talking in this manner and what changes he means to effect. I thank you and I am ready for your questions.

[Randah Habib, AFP] Randah Habib, AFP correspondent. Yesterday, President Saddam directed accusations at you. Can you answer him from here and give us more details on the secret contacts—you talked of secret meetings when you were in Iraq, that you preferred this to be open. Do you mean that when you were in Iraq you had secret contacts with certain parties?

[Hasan] I did not have secret contacts in Iraq but I have well-known contacts. I am well known on the party level and on the state level for criticizing and correcting existing mistakes. The reason that I did not hold secret contacts is because I felt that this would have been a shameful act due to my kinship. Therefore, my work should be clear and open as I had been working at the center of the state.

As for the accusations or the speech of President Saddam, I would rather not talk of personal issues related to President Saddam or his family. However, I was astonished by what was said and the issues that the speech contained. The speech contained all sorts of bad things. I say from here that I will not deal with personal matters, but I strongly warn against dealing with personal matters that are both incorrect and nonexistent. If this continues I will be forced to explain things that are extremely serious and grave.

[Richard Gisberg, ABC NEWS, in English] General, we have heard conflicting reports on whether you have already been contacted by American officials asking you what you know about Iraq's weapons program. Can you tell us a) if that has happened; b) if you intend to cooperate with U.S. or United Nations officials if they have questions for you regarding Iraq's nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons program?

[Hasan] Now the contacts are with the Iraqis, both official and nonofficial Iraqis, in and outside Iraq. However, we will also hold contacts on the Arab and international levels.

For the benefit of Iraq, we will work tirelessly to lift the embargo through our international contacts, because this embargo is not in the interest of the regime, but in the interest of the country and the Iraqi citizen. [sentence as heard] If we did not have the citizen's interests at heart, we would not have abandoned power. We were not personally hurt by being in power. We were officials who enjoyed full powers and free movement, but the suffering of our people prompted us to leave and work against this power.

[Al-Silawi, affiliation not further identified] I am Sa'd al-Silawi. Does this mean you will work out of Jordan on toppling the regime and overthrowing President Saddam Husayn?

[Hasan] Action will take place from within Iraq. The entire Arab world will overthrow the current regime.

[Al-Jawhari, UAE newspaper AL-KHALIJ] Shakir al-Jawhari from the United Arab Emirates newspaper AL-KHALIJ. Do you now consider yourself outside the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and do you see yourself as an alternative to President Saddam Husayn? Do the Arab

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countries with which you wish to coordinate include Kuwait and the other Gulf states?

[Hasan] We seek extensive relations with the Arab states and with Iraq's neighboring states, and also with other countries that have ties and interests with Iraq.

[Unidentified correspondent, in English] (?When do you expect) the Iraqi regime to be toppled, and are you willing to cooperate in unveiling the secrets of Iraq's military machine?

[Hasan] We are working on toppling the regime. Regarding the other point, these are the secrets of the country, and we cannot take responsibility for unveiling any secrets, unless these are in the interest of the country.

[Unidentified correspondent] [Name indistinct] from the German Television. How do you evaluate the military situation in Iraq five years after the embargo?

[Hasan] The Iraqi Army is an army with long traditions. It is a professional and capable army, which fought an eight-year continuous war against Iran and then the second Gulf war. However, the deteriorating conditions of the state have directly affected the army's strength and even the army's state of preparedness.

[Unidentified correspondent, in English] [Name indistinct] of CNN. What can you tell us about the situation in the Iraqi military since your departure, and there have also been reports that some supporters of you and of your brother have been arrested. Can you tell us anything about that since your departure?

[Hasan] As I have said earlier, the Iraqi Army is a significant and large army, but the current conditions have directly affected the strength of the army. At the same time, our departure has directly affected the condition of the military units. The Republican Guard is now deployed all over Baghdad. There is not a single street in Baghdad without a Republican Guard position to search people. Naturally, there will be arrests, and not only among relatives. There will be arrests at random, as in the past, sometimes when people are not even guilty. There will also be executions. This is expected because we know the nature of the regime and its aimless and incorrect actions.

[Correspondent] It is known that you are President Saddam Husayn's son-in-law. Your wife has accompanied you. Do your wife and your brother's wife support what you are doing? Or have you forced her to come with you?

[Hasan] Nobody has been forced at all. On the contrary, they are in full knowledge of our intentions. I talked to them about that 10 days before we decided to travel. I explained to them all details, without any hesitation. Perhaps at the beginning we thought that they might tell their family. But I did not care about that, and said you either get ready to travel with me, or I will travel alone. They did not mind at all and came along with me to Amman.

[Correspondent] Reports have talked about a power struggle between you and 'Udayy Saddam Husayn. Did that struggle have anything to do with your departure from Iraq? What effect will that have? Another question: Do you believe that your defection will help lift or maintain the UN sanctions imposed on Iraq?

[Hasan] In fact, I had no tense or bad relations with 'Udayy or Qusayy over any personal matters. The tension grew from my criticism of the entire situation. They all know my opinion about issues of interest to the country. They all know my criticisms of the current policy. As for the embargo, my action now is aimed to lift the embargo. I will ask the world states to help lift the emabrgo.

[Unidentified NEW YORK TIMES correspondent, in English] Can you give us an idea about your departure from Iraq, given the security mobilization that is supposed to be in place in Iraq? How did you leave Iraq?

[Hasan] I left Iraq in a normal way. I am a known person. I do not believe that a few guards at any checkpoint can stop me. A large number of cars were travelling with me, and I had a large number of companions and guards with me. We entered Amman in a very normal way. We announced that we would not return to Iraq before the situation is corrected only after we arrived in Amman.

[Unidentified TIME magazine correspondent, in English] As an army general, do you not believe that your ability to effect a change inside Iraq while in Iraq is greater than when you are abroad? You could have effected a change while you were a Republican Guard commander or a minister? You are issuing an appeal to the Iraqi Army from here. Do you not believe that had you talked to them there you could have been more capable of effecting a change?

[Hasan] I noted a while ago that because of kinship, I cannot work in secret. I could have done a great deal while in Iraq. However, I found that this would be unfitting for me and my history. To work secretly, would actually look as if I were betraying the regime that had entrusted me. But when I work in the open, I am separated from the regime and demand a change in it. This would be something positive for my history, family, tribe, and country.

[Correspondent] Do you seek to change the regime by military or political means?

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[Hasan] Changing the regime will not happen by political means only nor by military means only. The action will be political and military and by many other means of intelligence. The groundwork is prepared for this.

[Nabil al-Ghizawi, AL-DUSTUR newspaper] Is there U.S. support for you and how do you reply to President Saddam Husayn's charges, in his statements yesterday, that you are a traitor and that you have stolen millions of dollars?

[Hasan] So far, there has been no contact with the United States. We will try to get support from Arab countries and from inside Iraq and from the international forces. Why should we be described as embezzlers? Is it because we need funds? I was in my country and I had all the resources I need; I was in the middle of my family and clan. In addition, I am an official of the Iraqi state. It is absurd to say that I was tempted by dollars to flee, as they are saying.

[Unidentified SUNDAY TIMES correspondent, in English] Do you see yourself as the potential next president of Iraq and will you be staying in Jordan or do you think you will go on to another country?

[Hasan] Amman is a fraternal Arab capital. His majesty the king is well known in supporting us and all other Arabs. Jordan is my country and the Arab homeland is my country. I will not feel embarrassed to move from Amman to any other country if needed. We did not embark on this work only with the intention of my becoming president, but we are working for the happiness of the Iraqi people, to alleviate their burdens, to enable them to live in stability, and to end continuous wars from which they have suffered for over 15 years.

[P.V. Vivekanand, JORDAN TIMES, in English] P.V. Vivekanand from the JORDAN TIMES. Given your intimate knowledge of the workings of the Iraqi regime, how do you think the regime would react to Jordan giving you refuge on its soil? Thank you.

[Hasan] The Iraqi regime cannot react against Jordan now. It is incapable of doing so for reasons which we all know well. Had it been able to do so, it would definitely do so. But, it would be suicide for it to do it.

[Unidentified correspondent] Do you expect other members of the family to take your side?

[Hasan] Yes. [Word indistinct] is there and well known.

[Unidentified correspondent, in English] General: You've said that you want to work together with other Iraqi exile groups. Some of them have already said that they do not want to work with you because they said you have too much blood on your hands from your time within the regime. This is the first part of the question. And the second part of the question is: Do you now fear for your safety and for that of the family, and that the same fate may await you that other Iraqi exiles and critics of President Husayn have had happen to them?

[Hasan] I did not liquidate the opposition. But regarding those who do not want to deal with me, they are free to do so. What blood do I have on my hands? I am known for my ability to build several things for my country. Does he who builds for his country have hands stained with blood? This is a known fact to the Iraqis and the non-Iraqis. When the circumstances of a war dictate so, should we not fight? We fight to defend our country? However, there is one thing which we did not come anywhere close to; we have not executed a single citizen or committed any violation against any citizen in Iraq. But in the battlefield, this is something in which we have no say.

[Correspondent, in English] And your own safety now?

[Hasan] I feel very secure. The Jordanian security is very effective and capable. We know there will be attempts, and we know that certain elements will enter [into Jordan], but such attempts will fail. We knew before we left that they will try. But we do not care about this. What is important is that Iraq becomes free. The mere fact of our departure has compelled them to reconsider their mistakes. Our departure has drawn the attention of Iraqi officials and citizens to the mistakes. It also drew the attention of our Army, the Republican Guard, the Special Guard, and the security agencies because they all know the role we played in building our country. They also know our determination to build the country.

[Unidentified correspondent] Concerning the domestic situation in Iraq, is it true that Saddam is only controlling Baghdad and its suburbs? Recently there have been many reports about disturbances in al-Ramadi region. What is the real picture of the situation in Iraq?

[Hasan] It is known that the northern area has been out of the state's control. After draining the marshlands, security in the southern part has become better in the daytime than in the past. Absolutely, highway robberies take place in the streets of the southern governorates. There is no safe road at night between al-Basrah and al-Nasiriyah, between al-Basrah and al-'Amarah, between al-Nasiriyah and al-Kut, or al-Nasiriyah and al-Samawah. The issue that was raised by the Agence France Presse on al-Ramadi was erroneous.

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[Correspondent] Your Excellency the Minister, will you conclude agreements with Kurds in the north to topple Baghdad regime?

[Hasan] We have been holding contacts with all Iraqis and even non-Iraqis. Please allow those who have had no chance to address their questions to do so.

[Unidentified correspondent, in English] Have you discussed with His Majesty King Husayn your plans to topple the Iraqi regime, and do you have his full support to do so?

[Hasan] His majesty the king has done us a great favor. He has given us great care. We are working within our capabilities in this field. For anything we might need, we will definitely ask his majesty the king.

[Unidentified correspondent] Do you think that your departure has seriously damaged Saddam? This is the first question. The second question is how long do you think you will take to topple him as you say?

[Hasan] Naturally, it affected him. I have just said that the Republican Guard forces and Special Forces have been deployed throughout Baghdad. Republican Guard troops reinforcements have been rushed to the outskirts of Baghdad. It is difficult to predict the time needed [to topple Saddam].

[Daniel Williams, THE WASHINGTON POST, in English] Why didn't you just arrange to kill Saddam while you where there (?who is) surrounded by so many troops who respect you so much?

[Hasan] I have given a clear answer to that. We would not have carried out such an act when we were held in trust and given the kinship between us.

[Unidentified correspondent, NEWSWEEK magazine, in English] Can you tell us a little bit about Saddam's lifestyle now — how he lives, his moods, and what it is like to be somebody at the top of the Iraqi regime? Are other officials scared, or how do they interact with Saddam?

[Hasan] I have said that because of kinship with President Saddam, I would rather not talk about him.

[Al-Silawi] Mr. Minister: It is known that Iraq is now fragmented in the south and the north. If you came to power, will you be able to control Iraq and bind it together. Now you have Iran in the south, the Kurds, and the rest of Baghdad is controlled by the regime. In case you come to power, do you expect any kind of support to enable you to control things and unite Iraq once again.

[Hasan] Iraq has never been fragmented. This is a big exaggeration. True, the state has no control in the northern part of the country, and there is weakness in the southern region. Iraq's capabilities are enormous, so it is easy to restore security and stability.

[Unidentified official] His excellency will take one final question, please?

[Mirvat Suwwadah, ASSOCIATED PRESS] Mirvat Suwwadah from the ASSOCIATED PRESS. Regardless of the time it will take to topple the Iraqi regime, can you say here that you are now seeing the end of the Iraqi regime?

[Hasan] What is happening in the country, part of which we have already explained, has isolated the regime. It is a very big isolation. The state's remedies to overcome this isolation were wrong, characterized by executions, arrests, and great harm to the people. These actions have increased the isolation. The country was in a weak position, the country made great sacrifices for years in terms of martyrs, it has been living under severe financial hardships. The families of the martyrs had no support. The Iraqi families were unable to meet their basic needs of food, housing, or clothing. After all that, the state embarked on repressive remedies. This was not easy. All these contribute to the isolation of the regime. Naturally, the regime definitely will be toppled.

Thank you very much. We have burdened you. We have explained few things here. If the need arises, we will meet again and explain other things. Thank you for listening to us and for your questions. Thank you very much.

King Husayn Interviewed on Iraqi Defectors

TA1408082395 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 14 Aug 95 pp 2, 3, 5

[Report on "special" interview with King Husayn by Smadar Peri at the king's private residence in al-Hummar on 13 August: "First International Disclosure: The Jordanian King's Testimony About the Drama of the Iraqi Defectors"]

[FBIS Translated Text] King Husayn chose to give to an Israeli paper the first interview after his courageous decision to grant political asylum to the Iraqi ruler's daughters and sons-in-law.

I spoke with the king early yesterday evening, on the balcony of his private residence in the al-Hummar neighborhood. Pictured against the beautiful, green scenery the king looked relaxed and smiled frequently. His words were chosen carefully, but left no room for doubt: The Iraqi people are suffering under oppression. Iraq needs a fundamental change, which had better happen soon.

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The king spoke at length about how he met with General Husayn Kamil approximately a month ago and held a long conversation with him. "I was in shock when he told me what the situation in his country was," the king said. A month later, the general returned to Amman with his brothers, their wives, and dependents and requested political asylum. "I complied with their request without any hesitation or reservations."

Most of the time the king abstained from saying Saddam Husayn's name. He chose to level the serious criticism at "the Iraqi leadership." He mentioned Saddam Husayn's name only once, when he disclosed that since the Gulf War, which ended in 1991, "I have had no contact, either by telephone or otherwise, with Saddam Husayn."

[Peri] Your Majesty, could you tell us how this whole affair began?

[Husayn] I believe that this young man who is very close to the current Iraqi leadership, Husayn Kamil, had enough. He had enough of the way his country was being run, of the shattered illusions. He tried his best in the past to voice his opinions within the Iraqi ruling apparatus, but there appeared to be no room to hope for a change.

This man was very bothered by the mistakes committed by his country's leadership: toward the citizens of Iraq in the internal arena, in the regional context, and in the context of Iraq's relations with other countries in the world. He was particularly bothered by the oppression and the violation of civil rights in Iraq. Given his senior position as minister of security industries he was obliged to keep his loyalty, especially due to the fact that as the son-in-law of the Iraqi ruler he belonged to the ruling family. He could not afford to commit treason or stage a coup d'etat in Iraq itself.

But he felt the need to leave because he could no longer bear what was happening. Now he feels free to send a message to Iraq, to the leadership and the army. This message is meant to underscore the fact that if a man in his position could no longer tolerate the situation, then the time has come for people to be consciously prepared for the possibility that one day the change will occur and salvation will come to Iraq.

It was not easy for him, and I feel a great deal of respect and appreciation for him and for what he did. I can only guess that life in Iraq was a nightmare for him if he reached such a conclusion and decision. After all, if he had wanted he could have continued to live a comfortable and happy life in Iraq. However, despite all that he could have achieved for himself on the personal level due to his privileged position he decided to leave.

[Peri] How did he make personal contact with you?

[Husayn] Last Tuesday, immediately after the celebrations in Jordan marking the birth of the Prophet Muhammad, I heard that he wanted to meet with me. I made an appointment with him, and then he told me.

[Peri] How did he explain his decision to defect?

[Husayn] He felt that given the circumstances prevailing in Iraq he could not go on. Then he thought of us, of Jordan, as the place where he could seek protection. At the same time, he does not consider his career over. From his point of view Iraq is not an enemy. On the contrary, he would like to do whatever he can to save his country and he feels committed to it.

[Peri] What initially looked like a family feud suddenly exacerbated and turned into a political drama which is keeping the world enthralled.

[Husayn] As far as we know, it was a family feud on the personal level which went on for a rather long period of time. However, he realized from family gatherings, cabinet and party meetings, and whatever he saw around him that what was happening was not leading anywhere and then he made his fateful decision.

[Peri] The move seems to have been planned carefully. His scheduled official visit to Bulgaria was used as a cover for his escape.

[Husayn] I was not in regular contact with him. I had not seen him in years. I know that during the awful war between Iraq and Iran he was an officer and he managed to do wonders under the serious circumstances of that war, when there were no spare parts and the Iraqi Army needed numerous items. He proved his ability and talent, climbed up the ladder while demonstrating his special skills, and was assigned senior missions and jobs.

After the horrible Gulf War he was put in charge of rehabilitation, and he proved to be a man of action. He did a lot up to the time of his departure.

I met him three or four weeks ago, when he was on his way to Russia. He stopped over in Jordan and relayed a message to me from which I managed to learn how serious the situation in Iraq was and how much they needed a guiding hand.

What I heard from him totally contradicted what I had heard from other senior Iraqi officials visiting Amman. The latter went to great lengths to create the impression that everything was fine.

For my part I proposed reconsidering what was happening and change the situation. That was the nature of the message I asked him to relay to his president, that

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their country must start honoring accepted international laws and that it must do so soon. At the same time, we asked them to think of how Iraq could begin to become a partner in the peace process in the region seeing that we consider Iraq a very important country. We also stressed our concern for the suffering Iraqi nation.

In our opinion, Iraq's importance stems from its size, its resources, its past, its present, and its potential future.

I held a very long talk with Husayn Kamil in the course of which I repeatedly emphasized the new era of peace in our region. I told him how we in Jordan had succeeded in gaining our land and our rights and reached a situation we had not known in many years.

I believe what I told him came as a shock to him, and I think he thought long and hard about it.

I stressed to him that his leadership had been the one that signed the agreements with the shah of Iran. This same leadership then set out on a protracted war with Iran, and for eight years fought for control of the Shatt-al-Arab River during which thousands of people lost their lives. Afterwards came the invasion of Kuwait, an adventure which took a toll in human lives, at the end of which they were forced out of Kuwait. Add to this the damage that this policy caused Iraq. That is why rehabilitation was impossible, because each time his country got involved again in serious and unnecessary adventures.

I believe that our talk gave him food for thought and that he indeed thought long and hard on the issues I raised.

He then decided that when he took the step of leaving his country he would hasten to send an unequivocal message to the Iraqi people, leadership, and army, all of whom know him; a message that the time has come to make a change, to change their perception of the world and their behavior to rescue Iraq from the darkness.

[Peri] Your Majesty, did you have any doubts or reservations when he asked you to grant him political asylum?

[Husayn] I had no reservations whatsoever. When I realized what was really happening in Iraq, after all the unbelievable stories, I was terribly shocked. He kept talking about what the situation was really like. It was a great shock.

In any event, he asked for asylum and I decided to comply with his request without hesitation.

[Peri] Is this not too much of a load for Jordan: to host three senior officials in sensitive positions in the Iraqi top echelon and the two daughters of the Iraqi ruler?

[Husayn] Well, that was their wish, and I appreciate the fact that they chose Jordan. After all, they could have gone elsewhere. Their choice reflects the confidence that the Iraqi people have in Jordan. They know that we care about and are worried about them. Well, this was their choice and we decided to deal with it.

[Peri] The Jordanian man-in-the-street praises Your Excellency for his audacity and hospitality as reflected in the decision to grant them political asylum, but he is at the same time scared about Saddam Husayn's revenge.

[Husayn] We must be ready to stand up to challenges. I hope it will not come to that. We must learn to undertake risks for the sake of the things we believe in.

We cannot talk about upholding human rights in Jordan and turn a blind eye to what is happening in Iraq, to the suffering and the absence of civil rights there. That would be a mistake on our part.

[Peri] What did Saddam's son 'Udday want when he came to see you last week, immediately after you granted political asylum to his sisters and the senior Iraqi generals?

[Husayn] The meeting lasted only 10 minutes.

[Peri] What did 'Udday want?

[Husayn] 'Udday was not the head of the delegation. His uncle ('Ali Hasan al-Majid, the deposed defense minister) was the head of the delegation. They were looking for a solution to the problem. 'Udday asked about the possibility of meeting his relatives, but I immediately told him quite clearly that I had granted them political asylum at their request and that it was up to them to decide whether they wanted to meet with him or not.

I checked it myself with the family, whether they wanted to meet 'Udday, and I found out that they did not want to. I relayed this message to him.

[Peri] I followed Husayn Kamil's performance in the news conference. He comes across as being a wise man who knows exactly what he wants. He radiates charisma and leadership. What is your impression of him?

[Husayn] That he is a young and very brilliant man. He proved his ability and talent over many years. He is a patriot who loves his country, and it is this love and concern for his motherland that led him to the tough decision to leave. My impression is that he was no longer capable of being a minister. I was definitely impressed by his personality and abilities.

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[Peri] For us, Israelis, he is a monster. After all, he is the man who helped his president launch the Scuds at Tel Aviv.

[Husayn] In war like in war, as the saying goes. I definitely denounced what happened in those days. You may recall that Jordan was the only country in the world that made every possible effort to find a solution by peaceful means. Both in Kuwait and elsewhere we asked for a pause to change the situation. And I still remember what the Iraqi leadership had to say about us and our efforts. We tried our best to solve the complicated situation, but the Iraqi leadership censured us and criticized us in pan-Arab gatherings.

In any event, our situation in those days was very uncomfortable. We were portrayed in a very negative light despite our efforts. We were isolated. We took in thousands of people fleeing the horrors of the war, some 400,000 people who fled the Persian Gulf and were looking for a place to live. We could not do much for them, but we gave them asylum, shelter, and a place to live.

And one must bear in mind that the missiles overflew our skies and could have also hit us. Had people listened to us then and accepted our proposals the whole situation in the region might have been different today. But, we did not control the situation.

We tried to spare the Iraqi people from suffering. This has been our policy. We did not participate in the war, we did not support it. We tried to mobilize all our abilities to prevent it. I really do not know where the future will lead or what is going to happen.

As for what you said about the missiles, unfortunately soldiers cannot be held responsible for the decisions of their leaders. But as far as Husayn Kamil is concerned, I believe he loves his country and is prepared to work for it and for the suffering Iraqi people.

[Peri] Your Excellency, were you impressed that Husayn Kamil is today open to the world and prepared to adapt to changes?

[Husayn] I definitely got the impression that he is open and prepared to change his perceptions of the world.

[Peri] Based on your impressions, does Husayn Kamil have the adequate attributes to become Iraq's next president?

[Husayn] I cannot answer that. What I can say is that Husayn Kamil is determined to do everything in his power for the sake of the Iraqi people and he is prepared to relay all the right messages to the Iraqis that something must be done for them.

[Peri] What are his plans? Does he intend to stay in Jordan?

[Husayn] He asked to stay in Jordan and we agreed. He may soon visit a few Arab countries, but nothing has yet been set. We will respect his wishes.

[Peri] There are persistent rumors that Saddam's long arm will try to reach him, that there will be attempts to assassinate him.

[Husayn] We will do everything we can to secure his life and the lives of all the guests accompanying him. They are our guests, and we consider ourselves responsible for their security. Unfortunately, in the past they managed to murder an Iraqi exile in the middle of the street in Amman. He was an Iraqi scientist who fled from his country.

[Peri] Israelis are traumatized by Saddam Husayn, who was undoubtedly badly affected by this affair. Israeli tourists in Amman called the Israeli Embassy to ask whether they should cut short their trips and go back home.

[Husayn] I did not know about it. There is no reason to worry.

[Peri] Nevertheless, granting political asylum to defectors is seen as a very heavy load falling suddenly on Jordan's narrow shoulders. You share a long border with Iraq, which is a potentially dangerous situation.

[Husayn] If we look at the situation as it is now, then there is no load too heavy if the goal is to provide a better future for the Iraqi people and the entire region. We act in accordance with our beliefs in a respectable and fair way.

[Peri] Your Majesty, do you subscribe to current assessments in the world that this is the beginning of the end of Saddam's era?

[Husayn] It is too early to tell. We have no experience with similar situations. I believe that what is happening is a shock and I hope that this move will ensure the beginning of a new era and a new life for the Iraqi people.

[Peri] Husayn Kamil's message in his news conference two days ago was unequivocal: to topple the Iraqi regime. Is this going to happen soon?

[Husayn] This is the right time for a change, but one cannot tell. If a change occurs, it will only be for the better. Any change will be a change for the better.

[Peri] But if a change does not occur soon, the situation in Iraq will probably go back to its ugly old course and an opportunity will have been missed.

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[Husayn] That is correct.

[Peri] Have you had any contact with Saddam Husayn since the defection? Has he phoned you?

[Husayn] I have had no direct contact whatsoever with Saddam Husayn since the Gulf War, either by phone or otherwise, either with him or with others; none at all, neither with him nor with others.

[Peri] Nonetheless, shortly after the defection and the granting of political asylum to his daughters and generals he took the trouble of sending you a congratulatory card on the 43th anniversary of your monarchy. He is apparently creating the impression of "business as usual."

[Husayn] I definitely appreciate his wishes and his desire for business as usual.

[Peri] In view of the special circumstances I would like to ask you, Your Majesty: What is your mood these days? Are you worried or tense?

[Husayn] I am not at all worried or tense.

[Peri] And how should the Jordanian people regard this event? They are worried.

[Husayn] At some point in the near future I suppose I will address the Jordanian people to explain the developments to them and to other nations in the region. I will tell them that I have devoted and will continue to devote all my efforts to ensure a better future in the region.

[Peri] What will happen? What is the next stage in this drama which is keeping the whole world enthralled?

[Husayn] It is very hard to make long-term predictions and determine what is going to happen. After all, we are not following a plan or a script, there is no exact forecast. There was an event, something happened which has a huge impact on Iraq and the entire region.

[Peri] Your Majesty, I would like to thank you for your decision to grant your first interview in the aftermath of this dramatic event to an Israeli paper. It was definitely an extraordinary and courageous decision. I thank you very much.

[Peri] I thank you. It was a great pleasure to speak to you.

Al-Kabariti on Defectors, Ties With Iraq

Defectors Given King's 'Protection'

MM1108153395 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 11 Aug 95 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Al-Kabariti: We Were Surprised by the Arrival of the Dissidents and Their Families; Relations With Kuwait Will Not Be at Iraq's Expense"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI — In the first official reaction to the sudden official Jordanian announcement of the decision to grant political asylum to three members of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's family, Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has said: We were surprised by the arrival in Amman, using their own means, of three people who are very close to the Iraqi regime with their families. They immediately requested an audience with His Majesty King Husayn. A meeting was arranged for them. They requested his majesty's protection for reasons that Jordan believes have nothing to do with the Kingdom. So his majesty granted them asylum and offered them the necessary protection away from political calculations.

In an exclusive statement to AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI, al-Kabariti stressed that the people in question had turned to His Majesty King Husayn, whose Arab gallantry and Hashimite qualities prevented him from not responding to their request. So his majesty had granted them asylum and offered them the necessary protection in implementation of Jordan's ethics, which are known throughout history.

Asked whether this action was considered interference in Iraq's internal affairs, he told AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI: I do not know whether the presence of Anouar Haddam in the United States and al-Mas'ari in London is considered U.S. and British interference in the internal affairs of Algeria and Saudi Arabia. Jordan is the home of right, center of freedom, and base of democracy. Its action is in line with its principles and nature. I certainly do not believe that the Jordanian decision is interference in Iraq's internal affairs.

Al-Kabariti pointed out to AL-QUDS AL-'Arabi that the question of the defection to Jordan was a decision made by Iraqis. The decision was taken by the person concerned, who is very close to the Iraqi president. He is his [Saddam's] son-in-law, and his brother is one of his [Saddam's] officers.

He said that all that had happened was that they had requested the king's protection, so he had provided protection. He did not know why some people assumed

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that the Jordanian decision should affect Jordanian-Iraqi relations.

Asked what his government's position would be if the Iraqi defectors asked to travel outside Jordan, al-Kabariti said that they should decide on that by themselves. They were now in a safe place in Jordan, and they would remain under its protection as long as they were among its people. If they decided to move away from Jordan, that was up to them.

Al-Kabariti pointed out: Jordan has nothing to do with the decision taken by the Iraqis. We have nothing to do with the decision or with its causes. Nor do we know whether the matter has anything to do with a conspiracy, a coup attempt, or family disputes. It is not our business. It has nothing to do with us. All that has happened is that some brothers have turned to us. They moved into our territory and requested our protection, so we provided it.

Asked about reports of an improvement in Jordanian-Kuwaiti relations at the expense of Jordanian-Iraqi relations, al-Kabariti said: My answer to that question is that Jordanian diplomacy is at this stage focusing on maintaining balanced relations with all Arabs — relations consistent with Jordan's higher interests and pan-Arab interests. It means that our relations with any state will not be at the expense of our relations with another.

Asked whether the Iraqi defectors have asked to be moved to the United States, al-Kabariti said: That has not happened. They have not requested that from us. We said that we would provide the protection for them as long as they were among us.

AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI has since learned that the Iraqi president's son, 'Udayy, and 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, who arrived in Amman yesterday, Thursday, afternoon, officially asked Jordan to hand over the three Iraqis. Their request was completely rejected. Commenting on the Iraqi request, al-Kabariti said: Their extradition to Iraq is out of the question. Even thinking of it is out of the question. That is not part of Jordan's ethics.

Reaffirms Refusal To Return Defectors

NC1308185495 London MBC Television in Arabic 1803 GMT 13 Aug 95

[Report by Rana al-Sayyid]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Sayyid] As reports talk about Iraq's closure of its borders to Jordanians and Jordan's preparations for joint maneuvers with U.S. forces, Jordan reiterated its refusal to hand over Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan to the Iraqi authorities. This was confirmed by Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti in an exclusive interview with MBC:

[Begin recording] [al-Kabariti] We will certainly not even contemplate handing over Jordan's guests, who have requested his majesty's protection and care. They are under his majesty's protection. They will stay as long as they wish. I do not think that any Jordanian official is contemplating their handover.

[Al-Sayyid] The Jordanian foreign minister, who told MBC that he will leave for Saudi Arabia next week, said that he had held several contacts with Arab foreign ministers concerning the recent developments in the Iraqi arena.

[Al-Kabariti] Everybody in the Arab states is eager to know the details of the tragic situation the Iraqi people suffer from. We believe that we now have a more comprehensive and accurate picture than what the Iraqi brothers used to convey to us. We conveyed this picture as we heard it from the guests who came from Jordan.

[Al-Sayyid] Concerning the measures the Iraqi regime might take against Jordan and reports about the closing of the Iraqi border with Jordan, al-Kabariti said:

[Al-Kabariti] We are not aware of any Iraqi measures. I do not think observers should anticipate any Iraqi measures. [end recording]

On Iraqi Reaction to Defection

JN1408075095 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 14 Aug 95 pp 1, 17

[Report by Faysal al-Shubul and 'Umar Kallab]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordan is concerned, first and foremost, about Arab sovereignty over Iraq. This was emphasized by Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti in an answer to a question posed by AL-ASWAQ. He said that there are Iranian, Turkish, and Kurdish separate or collective threats to Iraq.

He added that Jordan has discussed with all brothers and friends the human dimension of the Iraqi question and the serious human suffering caused by the siege imposed on Iraq.

Answering a question on the live television and radio coverage of the news conference held by General Husayn Kamil Hasan on Saturday evening and whether this indicates a Jordanian adoption of the views of the Iraqi official who is hosted in Jordan, al-Kabariti said Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan requested to hold a news conference to respond to the charges leveled against him which he considered to be unjust, and it was decided to give him the right to announce his position.

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Al-Kabariti denied the reports that the Iraqi ambassador in Amman had been recalled to Baghdad, and about closing the borders between the two fraternal countries, adding that there is no tension between the two countries.

Al-Kabariti said nothing of the sort has taken place. He also denied that any Jordanian living in Iraq has been harmed by the Iraqi authorities.

The foreign minister said the Iraqi reaction continues to be normal and does not harm bilateral relations.

Al-Kabariti said he contacted the Saudi foreign minister last Saturday and discussed the arrangements for his visit to Saudi Arabia which is expected to be held this week.

The Foreign Minister said he has no knowledge of a secret visit to Amman by [Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister] Tariq 'Aziz.

AL-ASWAQ learned that an important Saudi personality visited Amman last Saturday.

On the threats made by General Husayn Kamil Hasan to topple the Iraqi regime from Jordan using all means, the foreign minister said this is binding to him and not to Jordan, and this does not express the government's view.

Meanwhile, Engineer Sa'd Hayil al-Surur, House of Representatives speaker, and al-Kabariti said the Foreign Affairs Committee will meet at 1200 today and will hear a report from His Excellency Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir on the refuge sought by Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan, his brother, and their families. Parliamentary sources expect that the prime minister will brief the House of Representatives on the details of the asylum and the government's position on this issue.

A Jordanian personality who met with Gen. Husayn Kamil said he did not think the man has the same power to make a change as when he was in Iraq.

The Jordanian personality told AL-ASAWQ that Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan used to have sufficient ability to change things, but he did not do so for reasons he explained at his news conference, but now he does not have the same ability. The personality said be believed that any change in the Iraqi regime would only come from within Iraq.

Another personality quoted 'Udday Sddam Husayn as saying to his guards before leaving Amman for Baghdad that he would not allow Husayn Kamil or anyone else to shake the Iraqi regime.

The Iraqi affair was the focus of attention of government and deputies yesterday. The government delayed discussing this subject until the special session that will be held this morning.

Analyses concentrated on the future of Iraq and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. A number of politicians believe that we are in the final stage of the chapter that lasted for five years. They noted that the developments show that all are concerned with maintaining Iraqi territorial integrity and preventing its division into a shiite state affiliated with Iran, another state in the north that is affiliated with Turkey, and a third state for the Iraqi Kurds.

A government minister said Amman is receiving intensive contacts from several Arab capitals requesting to talk with Gen. Husayn Kamil.

AL-ASWAQ also learned that a delegation from the Iraqi Energy Ministry arrived in Amman yesterday and held talks with a Jordanian delegation. A comfortable and fraternal atmosphere prevailed in the meeting as well as eagerness to maintain strong Jordanian-Iraqi relations.

AL-ASWAQ also learned from a government source that the delegation informed Jordan of its request to the International Atomic Energy Agency to visit Baghdad to acquaint its director general and members of the reality of the nuclear situation in Iraq.

The source said this step could be a quick answer to the possibility that Gen. Husayn Kamil Hasan will reveal secrets about Iraq's nuclear power, which will complicate the Iraqi position with the United Nations although Husayn Kamil denied that he intends to reveal any Iraqi secrets.

Al-Karaki on Defection, 'Udayy's Meeting With King

JN1208070195 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 12 Aug 95 p 1

[Report by 'Umar Kallab]

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn has received a congratulatory cable on the anniversary of his accession to the throne from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Meanwhile, Iraq reaffirmed that the talk about Iraqi mobilization and threats against Jordan is mere nonsense and denied any unusual movements on its territory. These assertions came amid a pledge by the Iraqi president to build a just, modern, and institutional system based on fairness, faithfulness, and sublime values. The Iraqi president also pledged to take into

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account any misappropriation of the people's wealth, as well as favoritism.

In another development, Dr. Khalid al-Karaki, deputy prime minister and information minister, reiterated, in a statement to AL-ASWAQ, Jordan's concern for its historic relations with fraternal Iraq and the unity and cohesion of the Iraqi people and said that Jordan exerted all efforts to lift the blockade and ease their suffering.

Asked by AL-ASWAQ about the request by the Iraqi president's sons-in-law to reside in Jordan, al-Karaki said that his majesty the king issued his order after the Iraqi brothers sought refuge from him. His majesty agreed to grant them residence and to provide them with care in Jordan.

Asked about some news agencies' reports that Husayn Kamil, [former] minister of industry and supervisor of the Military Industrialization Organization, intends to contact Iraqi opposition figures and the effect of this on Jordanian-Iraqi relations, al-Karaki said: The man did not speak about this and did not discuss it with us. However, if this takes place Jordan's stand on this issue is known: Jordan does not intervene in the domestic affairs of any Arab country. All that we can say is that the group sought refuge with Jordan and his majesty gave them refuge.

Regarding the visit to Jordan by 'Udayy, the Iraqi president's eldest son, and his meeting with His Majesty King Husayn, al-Karaki noted that Jordan announced his arrival, his departure, and his talks with his majesty the king on this issue. Al-Karaki said: Jordan announced its clear stand regarding the residence request and said that they are free to return because Jordan did not ask them to reside on its land. Their departure from Jordan is their own concern, however, Jordan will not ask anybody to leave because Jordan is a shelter for all Arabs and the one who seeks refuge is not a prisoner.

Concluding his statement, al-Karaki expressed hope that Jordanian-Iraqi relations will not be affected by this issue.

Spokesman Asserts No Change in Policy Toward Iraq

JN1308072195 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 13 Aug 95 p 1

[Report by Beatrix Immenkamp "Special to the JORDAN TIMES"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—The fact that General Husayn Kamil Hasan was permitted to hold a press conference yesterday and to call, as he did, for the overthrow of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's regime does not signal a shift in Jordan's policy towards Iraq, an official Jordanian spokesman said Saturday [12 August].

"Jordan follows a policy of non-interference in the affairs of other states," said Nayif Mawla, a spokesman for the government and undersecretary of the Ministry of Information.

Stressing that this was an affair between General Hasan and his government, the spokesman denied that the venue of the press conference at the Royal Court constituted an official Jordanian endorsement of attempts to topple the Iraqi ruler.

"The fact that the press conference took place at the Royal Court is due to the fact that General Hasan is a guest of His Majesty King Husayn," the spokesman said.

According to the spokesman, interference with Iraq's internal affairs would run contrary to Jordan's efforts to unite Arab states. "We follow a policy of pursuing Arab solidarity" not dividing the Arab World, he said.

Mr. Mawla rejected speculation that Jordan's warm reception of the two defectors and their families comes in the context of recent moves to improve ties with the Gulf states. "We do not use other people to improve our relations with other Arab countries," he stressed.

Defections Possibly Planned; May Move to Austria

MM1108161395 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 11 Aug 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Glimpses"]

[FBIS Translated Text] — Bulgaria's official radio has announced that Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan was scheduled to arrive in Bulgaria yesterday on an official visit to discuss restoration of bilateral trade links and repayment of Baghdad's debts to Bulgaria estimated at $2 billion. It seems that the Iraqi Industry Minister used the visit as a cover to take refuge in Amman.

Jordanian Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Samih Darwazah said yesterday that Iraqi oil supplies to his country were continuing normally. He said: "The oil supplies are continuing normally ... We have strategic relations with Iraq." Iraq supplies Jordan with about 3.2 million tons of crude oil annually.

Jordanian sources have told AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI that the political asylum granted to Husayn Kamil and his brother Saddam and their families is "temporary" until they leave Jordan later for a European state believed to be Austria, with whom contacts are under way to secure permanent asylum for them there.

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It has transpired that the Iraqi president's two daughters Raghdah and Rana arrived in Amman last Sunday, two days before their two husbands joined them, which means that the defection was planned days and perhaps weeks in advance.

Jordanian official reactions indicate that the authorities apparently had prior knowledge of the arrival of Husayn Kamil and his brother. When asked by AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI to comment on that, one Jordanian official said: "Jordanian democracy absorbs all cases. This is a purely humanitarian issue."

Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti expects a considerable improvement in his country's relations with Kuwait but he has emphasized that such improvement would not necessarily be at Iraq's expense.

The Jordanian leadership has been in a state of emergency throughout the past two days studying the possible consequences of the asylum for President Saddam's two daughters, their two husbands, and 15 senior officers. The security forces have also been placed on maximum alert.

Husayn Kamil's Iraqi Opposition Contacts Noted

JN1208094495 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Aug 95 pp 1, 7

[Report by Natasha Bukhari with agency dispatches]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Amman — Two daughters of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and their husbands, one of them the architect of the country's military weapons programme, who have been given asylum in Jordan, remained under tight Jordanian security outside Amman on Friday [11 August].

The two sons-in-law of the Iraqi president were reported to have established contacts with opposition groups and the U.S. government.

Husayn Kamil Hasan, Iraq's minister of minerals and industries, and his brother Saddam, head of the presidential guards, fled to Jordan on Tuesday along with their wives, Raghda and Rana — the eldest and second daughters of President Saddam.

King Husayn met with the Hasans shortly after their arrival on Tuesday and granted them asylum in response to their request.

President Saddam sent his eldest son 'Udayy and a cousin, former Defence Minister 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, to Amman Thursday evening with a message to His Majesty King Husayn seeking the return of the Hasans. The king met with them for about 10 minutes, but turned down the demand for the return of the defectors, Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said. "It was a big no," said Mr. al- Kabariti.

Mr al-Kabariti said the granting of the asylum was in line with Jordan's traditional policy of giving refuge to any Arab seeking shelter. "He who enters Abu-Abudllah's house is safe," said the minister, quoting from a old saying.

President Saddam meanwhile sent a congratulatory message to the King on the occasion of the anniversary of the Monarch's accession to the throne on Thursday. The message was taken as an indication that the defection did not have any serious and immediate impact on Jordanian-Iraqi relations.

The overland flow of Iraqi oil to Jordan continued as normal on Friday. Some reports had suggested that the Iraqi government should shut off the flow in retaliation for Jordan granting asylum to the Hasans. But experts and analysts dismissed the suggestion, pointing out that Iraq needed Jordan as much as Jordan needed Iraqi oil.

If anything, they said, a suspension of Iraqi oil supply to Jordan would be more detrimental to the interests of Iraq, which depends on the Kingdom for access to the outside world.

According to sources, the Iraqi defectors, who were accompanied by a cousin, Major 'Izz=al-Din Hasan, and his family and about 15 Iraqi soldiers and officers — all of who were also given refuge — were staying at a villa in Na'ur outside Amman.

It was not immediately clear why the Hasans, who hail from the powerful al-Majid clan in Takrit, President Saddam's home town, and related to the president's father, had defected. But it was known that members of the al-Majid clan were engaged in a running conflict with the half brothers and sons of President Saddam for power.

In any event, the defections were seen as a serious blow to the regime of President Saddam and was taken as a strong sign of serious trouble in the ruling circles in Baghdad.

International news agencies reported from Amman and Dubayy that Husayn Kamil Hasan, a general who was fired as minister of minerals and industries and as head of the Military Industrialisation Organisation, had established contacts with representatives of Iraqi opposition groups and the U.S. government.

"The U.S. government is interested in the fact that they defected, which we see as a major step... the most significant (defection) since the Gulf war," said an unidentified U.S. embassy official quoted by the Associated Press.

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U.S. military officials and Mr. Hasan "are discussing information that General Husayn Kamil Hasan might have on Iraqi arms, especially biological and chemical," an official quoted by AFP said.

"Serious talks have not begun and should take place in the next 24 hours," the official said.

"A number of meetings will take place in Amman. The United States is very interested in any information that Gen. Hasan can provide," the official added.

Diplomatic sources quoted by Reuters confirmed U.S. officials were in contact with the Iraqis.

The sources, also speaking on condition they not be identified, said the case was getting extremely serious treatment by U.S. officials. President Bill Clinton was personally involved, assuring Jordan of protection if Iraq issues threats over the affair.

A former Iraqi general said in Damascus, Syria, that Hasan told him he wants to meet Iraqi opposition leaders to plan the Baghdad regime's overthrow.

Wafiq al-Samarra'i, who defected in December after President Saddam dismissed him as head of military intelligence, said Thursday he had spoken to Mr. Hasan by telephone in Amman.

He said Mr. Hasan told him he wants to get together with Iraqi opposition groups, which are mostly based outside their country, to "agree on overthrowing the present regime in Baghdad."

Mr. al-Samarra'i told the AP no decision has yet been taken by opposition leaders, but "we would support any step against Saddam's regime in order to rescue Iraq and its people."

Meanwhile an official Jordanian statement said:

"His Majesty King Husayn has graciously issued instructions to welcome them and take care of them as brothers from sisterly Iraq, who chose Jordan — the refuge of the children of the nation in good and bad times — as a place of residence and a safe haven where they find security and respectable life under the umbrella of its leadership."

Informed sources [said] that 'Udayy Husayn's visit here was aimed at settling the "differences within Saddam's family" that prompted the defection, but that no meeting between 'Udayy and his sisters or brothers-in-law took place.

Diplomats saw there had been rumors of rising tension between 'Udayy and Mr. Hasan, and that the "struggle over power between the two men could no longer be contained."

They said Mr. Hasan was a powerful figure in the Saddam cabinet who was responsible for the development of the secret Iraqi weapons programmes in the 1980s and was placed this June in charge of the key area of military industry.

An official statement said that King Husayn met with an Iraqi delegation that includes 'Udayy Saddam Husayn, 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, an advisor to President Saddam, and several Iraqi officials.

"They discussed the arrival of several Iraqi officials to Jordan and their request to remain in the country," the statement said.

However, saying that the decision to grant the party asylum "has no bearing on Jordanian-Iraqi relations," Foreign Minister al-Kabariti told the JORDAN TIMES. The question of handing them over was "unmentionable," he said, adding that "it was their choice (to come here) and we have expressed our acceptance of whatever the Iraqi people accept for themselves."

Washington on Thursday announced that the U.S. supports Jordan's "courageous" move in granting the Iraq's refuge. U.S. President Bill Clinton told a press conference at the White House that the "U.S. will back Jordan" if it comes under any threat from Iraq.

The American leader said that he received a telephone call from King Husayn concerning the defectors on Tuesday.

"King Husayn's decision, located where he is, to grant asylum to those individuals is clearly an act of real courage, and I have assured him and told him that we would stand behind Jordan," Mr. Clinton said at a White House news conference [passage omitted].

U.S. Military Team's Talks With Kamil Hasan Reported

NC1108181795 Paris AFP in English 1759 GMT 11 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Amman, Aug 11 (AFP)— Senior US military officials arrived here on Friday [11 August] and held an "informal meeting" with the son-in-law of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn who defected three days ago, a Western diplomat said.

The US military officials "are discussing information that General Husayn Kamil Hasan might have on Iraqi arms, especially biological and chemical," the official added.

The official said the US is "very interested in any information that General Hasan can provide."

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The general is a potential information coup for the West. He was Iraq's industry minister, head of the powerful Military Industrialization Agency, the main architect of Iraq's advanced weapons programs and a former intelligence head.

"Serious talks have not begun yet and should take place in the next 24 hours," the source said, adding: "A number of meetings will take place in Amman." [passage omitted]

Saddam Reportedly Bans Jordanians From Entering Iraq

JN1308072595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0630 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli Ambassador to Jordan Shim'on Shamir has said that Jordan is a peaceful country and Israeli tourists should not be worried by the tension caused by the defection of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's two sons-in-law to Jordan. In a radio interview, Professor Shamir said Jordan is doing its best not to implicate itself in Iraq's affairs or turn into a springboard for operations against Baghdad. He added that Jordan has considerable economic ties with Iraq and it granted shelter to the sons-in-law out of its adherence to the principle of hospitality.

A Lebanese radio owned by Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri said Iraqi President Saddam Husayn has banned Jordanians from entering Iraq following Jordan's decision to grant political asylum to two of his daughters and their husbands.

Cross Border Movement Continuing 'Normally'

JN1408094295 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 14 Aug 95 pp 1, 17

[FBIS Translated Text] An official source at the al-Ruwayshid border post, speaking by telephone at noon yesterday, said the border post is calm and movement between the two sides continues normally, including the crossing of tankers carrying Iraqi oil to Jordan.

The source said the number of Jordanian citizens travelling to Iraq has reduced by 90 percent while a the number of those coming from Iraq, especially Jordanians, is increasing.

Citizens Say Telephone Lines With Baghdad Cut

JN1208072895 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 12 Aug 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Citizens trying to contact Baghdad by telephone yesterday said that all communications lines had been cut.

Lines Said Functioning Normally

NC1308051995 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2120 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, 12 Aug (MENA)—Telephone lines and land transportation routes between Jordan and Iraq are functioning normally.

A MENA correspondent in Amman telephoned the MENA office in Baghdad tonight.

The agency's Amman correspondent added that there were no reports that traffic across the border between the two countries has been affected.

Israel radio said this evening that telephone lines between Baghdad and Amman were cut, and that all attempts to contact Iraq from Jordan had failed.

Papers Comment on Hosting Husayn Kamil Hasan

'Ethical Position' Explained

JN1208083195 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 12 Aug 95 p 1, 23

[Editorial: "Jordanian Hashemite Ethics"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Those who know Jordan—its leadership, message, and ethics—were not surprised yesterday when it decided to host another group of fraternal Iraqis who came to Jordan hoping to find, and confident that it would find, a safe refuge that is governed by the ethics of the Hashemites who, throughout history, have never closed their doors to anyone who knocked at them.

Jordan does not need to remind anyone of its constant support for Iraq and its continuous demand for ending the suffering of the fraternal Iraqi people, asserting that the dignity of the Iraqi people is the basis of the nation's dignity and calling for maintaining Iraq's territorial integrity and sovereignty as an Arab land whose Arab sovereignty should not be undermined. Jordan has asserted that it is always ready to protect this land.

Jordan is the country of all Arabs, and hosts tens of thousands of Iraqis with whom we willingly share bread and water in response to a Hashemite Jordanian ethic that we acquired at birth in this homeland that will remain the beating heart of the nation, and in which freedom and dignity prevail.

Our country yesterday, as it always has, opened its arms to all Arabs. How can it not do so when the Hashemites continue to carry the freedom and unity message of the Great Arab Revolt.

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Undoubtedly, when we welcomed the brothers from fraternal Iraq yesterday we were not seeking political gains or hostilities, because Jordan has always said that it wants good neighborly relations with the brothers. Jordan believes that there is no reason for tension in relations with the Iraqi brothers, and that it is fully concerned with continuing and developing these relations in a manner that serves the joint interests of the two fraternal peoples. Jordan says this in a voice that is louder than all the foreign voices which tried to undermine this brotherhood, and Jordan does not see any justification for the talk about alleged tension or illusionary military buildups.

The Jordanian decision was undoubtedly based on an ethical position that is known to all, and there is no need to reiterate this. Jordan has always been the home of all Arabs, and the Hashemite house will remain open for all the nation's sons.

Asylum Decision Defended

JN1408115395 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 Aug 95 pp 1, 26

[Editorial: "The Clean Principled Stand"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It seems that Jordan's position, which has not changed in its bias in favor of Iraq and its people, is currently exposed to a new misunderstanding similar to that which took place during the second Gulf war. Approximately five years ago, some tendentious sides succeeded in unfairly misinterpreting this clear principled stand.

Today, when Jordan opens its heart and arms to some brothers from Iraq, and provides them with shelter, hospitality, and sincere love and respect, the same misinterpretation is repeated, intentionally or unintentionally, in another new attempt to reverse facts and fish in troubled water which Jordan has always been trying to push away from its pure spring.

Those who do not like to see facts as they really are should know that this Arab fortress which has always been a home for free Arabs since the beginnings of this century has been hosting Iraqi brothers who are at their wit's end and who could not find a safe place other than Jordan in which they are welcomed.

Thus, Jordan's hosting of General Husayn Kamil Hasan and his companions is only a natural extension of that genuine Arab approach which Jordan, leadership and people, adopted one generation after another without seeking to achieve any objective other than performing our duties toward the brothers.

In light of all this, we call on those who tried, and succeeded for some time, to throw dust in the eyes regarding the clean principled Jordanian stand five years ago, to stop such attempts now, and to know that there is an Arab leader in Jordan who gives priority to pan-Arab brotherhood duty over any other duty—a leader who is faithful to his values which are derived from the principles of the Greater Arab Revolt, and who defends, as much as he can, right, justice, freedom, and man's dignity and basic rights of life.

King Discusses Ties, Latest Events With Saudi Official

JN1408085895 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 14 Aug 95 p 1

[Report by JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn on Sunday [13 August] met with a high-ranking Saudi envoy paying the first such visit to Jordan after the Gulf crisis and discussed bilateral relations and the defection of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's son-in-law, official sources said.

Also expected to have been discussed during the meeting was a planned visit to Saudi Arabia by King Husayn for a summit with King Fahd in the first such encounter between the two leaders after relations were strained in the wake of the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti is expected to visit Riyadh this week to prepare for the summit, which will seal Jordanian-Saudi reconciliation, according to the sources. No detail was available on the timing of the summit.

It will be Mr. al-Kabariti's second trip to Riyadh in a month and reflects the improvement in relations, which is expected to be capped by the nomination soon of a Saudi ambassador to Jordan.

Riyadh recalled its envoy from Amman in 1991 in protest against what it saw as Jordan's support for Iraq in the Gulf crisis and declined to approve a replacement for the Jordanian ambassador to Saudi Arabia when the diplomat's tenure ended. Early this year, however, the Saudi government accepted a Jordanian ambassador, but has not named a new ambassador to Amman.

The Saudi envoy who was received by the King on Sunday was described by the sources as a leading member of the Saudi royal family. One source identified the envoy as Prince Turki Al Faysal, but it could not be immediately confirmed.

According to the sources, the King and the Saudi envoy reviewed Jordanian-Saudi relations and the sudden twist in the Middle East situation brought in by the defection of Lieutenant General Husayn Kamil Hasan, Iraq's

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minister of industry and minerals, along with his wife Raghad, President Saddam's eldest daughter, and his brother, Colonel Saddam Kamil, and his wife Rana, the second daughter of the Iraqi president. Jordan has given them asylum.

Closer details of the discussions were not immediately available.

Jordan has improved its relations with 'Oman, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain which along with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait form the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Mr. al-Kabariti told a Kuwaiti newspaper last week that he expected ties with Kuwait also to improve soon.

A report that Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al- Sabah called Mr. al-Kabariti over the phone on Sunday could not be immediately confirmed.

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Al-Hariri Returns After Meetings With al-Asad

NC1208192995 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri returned to Beirut this evening, after meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus at noon today. The prime minister's talks covered discussed developments in the Middle East and a number of issues of mutual interest.

Al-Hariri visited B'abda Palace upon his return, where he met with President Ilyas al-Hirawi.

Sources close to al-Hariri have said that his talks in the Syrian capital concerned various bilateral issues in addition to the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of the peace process, which is stalemated as a result of the rigid Israeli stances.

The sources added that al-Hariri's consultations with the Syrian leadership aimed to coordinate on all the issues that have a bearing on the two countries' cooperation, the unity of their positions, and their next steps toward the common goals that preserve the national and pan-Arab interests of the two fraternal countries.

Dallul Comments on Negotiations, 'Resistance'

NC1208084195 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] National Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has said: If the [Lebanese-Israeli] negotiations fail, we all must join the Resistance, which represents true steadfastness in the new world order. Minister Dallul declared that he rejects submitting to the pressures aimed at disarming the Resistance. He called for unity between the citizens, State, and Army on the one hand and the Resistance on the other. He said development and reconstruction is an alternative to the Resistance.

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Paper Views 'Erosion' of Iraq's Inner Circle

JN1208121895 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0715 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 12 Aug (SANA)—AL-THAWRAH says that what has happened and is happening in Iraq is an erosion of the Iraqi regime's inner circle, a fire in its bedroom, and the beginning of its total collapse. It also indicates degeneration and complete bankruptcy, and the start of its physical downfall — its moral downfall took place a long time ago. It also shows that the flesh [of the Iraqi regime] has begun to decay.

In an editorial by Chief Editor 'Amid Khuli, the newspaper said all these expressions can be used to describe what has taken place. They reflect an attempt to understand what will take place against the backdrop of what has happened, which is a physical precurser of the special state of terror that will certainly produce results that are in line with what prompted the two daughters of the regime's head to flee from their father, because he has reached a serious psychological condition in which he will not hesitate to liquidate his two daughters. This is a rare case in history. The daughters might also have been afraid of the imminent fall of the regime. Their fears might have emanated from the fact that they and their husbands are partners in the regime's plunders.

The newspaper expressed the belief that Saddam Husayn's daughters flight from Baghdad in the darkness of night gives a precise picture that is no less dark of the condition of the regime from within, which is certainly terrible in its evilness, tyranny, and bloodiness. In view of the importance of those who fled, the situation is far more serious than simply saying that two ranking officials who were very close to Saddam have fled.

AL-THAWRAH said that the fleeing of Saddam's two daughters gives a better picture of what is going on within the regime than if those who fled were simply ranking officials. So, what is the situation if those who fled are the two daughters and sons-in-law from the circle immediately around Saddam?

The paper adds: When the two daughters and sons-in-law decide to jump from the ship into the sea seeking salvation, followed by the sailors, and then the captain, this indicates that the situation is desperate.

AL-THAWRAH said what happened in Baghdad is all of the descriptions and analyses made on this subject. It is an erosion of the inner circle, a fire in the bedroom, and eventually abandoning ship, jumping into the sea, and seeking rescue. The paper added that it is also an escape from fire.

It added these are descriptions of a situation that is difficult to describe, and which prevails in Baghdad. This will make Saddam bloodier and more frightened because he has been stabbed in the heart, and is bleeding even from his daughters and sons-in-law. He will be more dangerous and bloodier as a result of the deep wound caused by their escape.

The paper said the Iraqi people will face this abnormal psychological condition and will pay dearly in the near future for the political, economic, and social bankruptcy in Iraq. It added that the corruption of the regime led to this popular hostility toward it, and the regime replied with more blood. Blood will lead to a vicious circle. The options will become narrower, the circles around the regime's head will become narrower, and the repression also will become narrower until it strikes the closet members of the family.

President al-Asad Receives Lebanese Prime Minister

JN1208210295 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri at al-Rawdah Palace at 1215 today.

Discussions dealt with regional developments and a number of issues of concern to the two sister countries.

Syrian, Lebanese Businessmen Study 'Common Market'

JN1108115195 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 14 Jul 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut (SANA) — The Council of Lebanese and Syrian Businessmen held a meeting yesterday at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Beirut to discuss the development of economic and trade relations between the two fraternal countries.

The council decided to form a special committee in order to draw up the internal by-laws of the council and to come up with a final idea about a seminar on a Syrian-Lebanese common market which is scheduled to be held in both Damascus and Beirut in September.

The Lebanese side was headed by 'Adnan al-Qassar, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Beirut, and the Syrian side by Ratib al-Shallah, president of the Union of Syrian Chambers of Commerce in the presence of Nasri Khuri, secretary general of the Higher Syrian-Lebanese Council.

The Council of Lebanese and Syrian Businessmen also approved the principle of establishing a holding company.

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Egypt's Sidqi Arrives for Joint Committee Meeting

JN1308205395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Egyptian Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi arrived in Damascus this evening on an official visit to the Syrian Arab Republic during which he will lead the Egyptian side in the Higher Joint Syrian-Egyptian Committee meetings.

Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi led those who received him at Damascus International Airport. [passage omitted]

Dr. Sidqi made a statement to journalists and expressed pleasure to be in Damascus and described Syrian-Egyptian relations as excellent and distinguished and said the pillars of these relations have been laid down by Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Muhammad Husni Mubarak. He said: These relations are in their best shape, and we hope that they will be enhanced and developed in various fields.

He said: In its eighth session, the joint committee will follow up and review all that has been realized in previous sessions, and if negative aspects are found, we are going to tackle them and we will entrench the positive aspects. He said bilateral relations are crucial in this world and in this part of the world, and bilateral understanding is complete on the highest level, and we hope that more achievements will be made during this session.

Al-Zu'bi also made a statement to journalists in which he said: I am glad to receive my brother 'Atif Sidqi and members of the fraternal Egyptian delegation, and to express my pleasure because this meeting is taking place in Damascus which has all love to Egypt—people and leadership.

This meeting will allow us to continue the joint committee meetings and discuss issues related to the march of coordination and economic, social, and cultural integration between the two sisterly states. I emphasize that this march, which we have begun years ago and which has been started by Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Muhammad Husni Mubarak is a serious march whose first steps have been realistic ones aimed to strengthen joint projects, unify legislation and rules and the system of work, and exchange expertise, as well as expanding trade exchange.

Much has been achieved over the past stage, and with God's help and instructions of President al-Asad and Mubarak we will continue entrenching the steps that have been made, and adding new steps that will open horizons of close cooperation in all fields. The strong bilateral relations, which are based on their militant past, on the one hand, and the aspired future, on the other, are strong relations and are based on the will of the two peoples to have integration and cooperation.

I welcome again Dr. Sidqi and the brother members of the fraternal Egyptian delegation, and I am confident that this meeting will be of fruitful results that are beneficial to the two fraternal peoples and countries. [passage omitted]

Papers Criticize 'Arafat-Peres Agreement

JN1208130295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 12 Aug 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper TISHRIN has commented on the partial agreement reached between Israel and the self-rule authority on the transfer of some powers to the Palestinian side, asserting that the transfer of these powers will not in the least affect the occupation authorities' control. The basic powers pertaining to sovereignty, security, and water remain in Israeli hands. The self-rule authority's police will help the occupation troops pursue patriots and strugglers.

TISHRIN adds: It goes without saying that this agreement and its predecessors have only drawn the condemnation, disregard, and anger of the Palestinian people. Israel has held in complete disregard the Palestinians' basic rights, as well as the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

TISHRIN goes on to say: All the agreements signed between Israel and 'Arafat have neither achieved peace, nor brought the region closer to peace. Some people might even say that Israel has won the recognition of the Palestinian negotiators and managed to force its own conditions. That is true. Nonetheless, what is true and more important is that it has not won the recognition of the Palestinians, as attested to by the continuation of the intifadah and resistance. Hence, any solution that does not enjoy the support of the Palestinian people and intifadah activists is doomed to failure.

TISHRIN says: Since the start of the Washington talks, Syria has warned against separate solutions and deals. It has warned all sides that such solutions can neither achieve peace, nor realize Arab aspirations, or restore Arab rights. Syria's worries have been justifiable. Israel is not content with forcing its conditions on the self-rule authority. It aims to achieve similar lame agreements on other tracks of negotiations. But Syria and Lebanon confronted this Israeli endeavor when they insisted on a complete Israeli withdrawal, and the full implementation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions.

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Israel is not interested in true peace, but in consecrating occupation and hegemony. The peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of negotiations has therefore come to a halt and turned into a misleading drama on the Palestinian track of negotiations. On the Palestinian track, peace has ostensibly been achieved, whereas occupation, repression, and occupation have been retained.

In a comment on the same issue, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: The agreement recently reached between the Palestinian and Israeli sides is a phased deal, whose details have not been announced. This has given rise to Palestinian fears and worries that the self-rule authority might have made concessions to the detriment of the Palestinian people and their basic rights. The announcement by Peres that Israel will retain the responsibility for the West Bank, and that it will not abandon what he called "its vital interests" means that the occupation of the West Bank will remain intact, particularly since this agreement has been welcomed by the Israelis and deemed an important step toward consecrating Israel's control of territory, security, and settlements. Worse still, this agreement stipulates that Palestinian prisoners will not be released and endorses an intensification of the fight to liquidate Palestinian resistance. It is to be recalled that the occupation authorities have expressed their satisfaction with the moves the self-rule authority has made in this regard. Thus far, the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations have continued to place Israeli interests above everything else. Israel's security is deemed unnegotiable. To add insult to injury, Israel has continued to reject any discussions on Jerusalem. Israel, which is putting the limited self-rule authority under close scrutiny, looks upon this authority as an agency assigned the task of performing administrative work.

AL-THAWRAH adds: All this shows that Israeli dictates are being forced on the Palestinian negotiators and endorsed by them. The Palestinian-Israeli negotiations will neither promote peace, nor ensure the restoration of Palestinian rights.

AL-THAWRAH wonders: Can peace be promoted by Israel's abandonment of the functions that constituted a burden, presented it with a serious predicament, and set it on a collision course with the Palestinian people at a time when it has chosen to overlook the issues that would promote the interests of the Palestinian people and foster support for the peace process within their ranks?

Press on Israeli Peace Policy, Settlers' Moves

JN1408065095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0450 GMT 14 Aug 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-BA'TH today comments on the peace process, asserting that Israel alone is the real obstacle to the achievement of true peace in the region. The paper points out that Israel has recently turned down a U.S. suggestion to resume the talks between the ambassadors of Syria and Israel in Washington. This is in addition to many other negative stands linked to the essence of the peace process.

AL-BA'TH says: These Israeli stands are not surprising for us, because we know that Israel's policy is based on procrastination and vagueness. Despite the fact that four years have passed since the start of the peace process, there has been no clear Israeli position on the peace process. All that we hear is that the Rabin government wants peace. But what peace is that?

The paper asserts that Israel does not want a just and comprehensive peace based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the implementation of the land-for-peace principle. Israel wants to generalize the partial and separate agreements, which have achieved everything for Israel.

AL-BA'TH notes that President Hafiz al-Asad told U.S. President Bill Clinton in Geneva and Damascus that Syria is seriously working for a true peace in the region, that is, withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 lines in return for full peace. The U.S. President welcomed this clear position, stressing that his administration also thinks peace in the region should be comprehensive because this peace, as President Clinton said, will be viable and will keep the region clear of any possible threats.

The paper concludes that the responsibility for the halt in the peace talks rests completely with Israel because Israel is the only party that is working against just and comprehensive peace.

TISHRIN comments on the Israeli settlers' continued provocative activities in the occupied Arab territories. The settlers have killed a Palestinian citizen and injured two others under the very eyes of the Israeli army.

The paper says that after it has involved the Palestinian side in a series of serious concessions, Israel has turned the whole issue from one of full withdrawal from the occupied territories and the implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions into a security issue. The agreements that were concluded ignore the Palestinians' basic rights and focus on providing security to the settlers and settlements through the continuation of the

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occupation, setting up road blocks, reinforcing police patrols, building new roads, and annexing more West Bank land to Greater Jerusalem.

The paper adds: The one who observes the self-rule negotiations and the statements of Israeli officials comes up with the impression that the purpose of the negotiations is to guarantee the security of the settlers and protect the settlements. The Security Council resolutions that govern the peace process state that the settlements should be dismantled and the settlers evacuated. This is because occupation cannot be eliminated without the elimination of the settlements, which pose a constant threat to the security of the Palestinian people and their national legitimate rights.

TISHRIN says that settlement activity is a systematic act of aggression against the Arab citizens and a flagrant and savage aggression against their territory. What the Israeli settlers are doing today in the occupied territories — and what they did yesterday — is a crime against humanity the perpetrators of which should be tried as war criminals. More serious still is that Israel is asking the Arabs to guarantee the security of the settlers and settlements; in other words, to protect crimes and the criminals who are threatening their children's country, territory, existence, and identity.

Radio Reviews Israel's Positions on Peace Process

JN1208233695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1136 GMT 12 Aug 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Syria has given many proofs of its good intentions toward peace. However, it rejected all the Israeli blackmailing attempts because its positions are based on solid national and pan-Arab constants and on resolutions of international legitimacy, which constituted the basis and springboard of the peace process. On the other extreme, Israel has squandered much time in verbal altercations and constant attempts to impose partial solutions denigrating the principle of full withdrawal and the requirements and conditions of peace.

The whole world knows full well that peace requires the willpower of two parties. Had the issue been contingent on Syria, peace would have been realized a long time ago. However, Israel is the party that adamantly insists on rejecting resolutions of international legitimacy and sticks to its own interpretations that contradict peace and the Security Council resolutions. It has always tried to derail talks in a manner that would enable it, with the help of those who concluded unilateral deals, to manipulate peace tracks and turn talks with Syria into a crossword puzzle and render them void of any substance. At the same time, Israel would enjoy a wide margin for crippling talks and any progress at the moment it wishes. The only reason for this is because Israel evades Security Council resolutions and because it does not want the Madrid conference terms of reference, honors no pledges, and does not show any respect for the will of the international community or for the U.S. sponsor and partner itself, which undertook intensive efforts to advance the Syrian track. However, Israel's penchant for crippling continued to dominate the Israeli decisionmakers who use extremist domestic considerations as a pretext, thus express their desire not to make peace.

It is noteworthy that each time Syria seeks to decide positions and reach an agreement on a specific point, Israel evades deciding a position and reaching an agreement. This reflects its desire to keep talks both on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks locked in a vicious circle and run according to the principle of negotiating for the sake of negotiations. Clearly, Israel always seeks covers and instruments [word indistinct] of the same old proposals from which it has not departed. We are constantly convinced that Israel has not yet made the decision of peace, given the practices of the Israeli officials themselves, who lay mines and plant thorns along the path of peace and foil any real progress.

For example, what good intentions the Israeli officials are talking about at a time when they allow themselves to burn and destroy houses and blast safe villages in southern Lebanon? What peace are they talking about while they avoid the facts of peace and do not even stand to hear the word withdrawal, which is the key to peace? Who advocated that peace that gives Israel everything and does not give Arabs even their land and rights? The Oslo agreement is an obvious example.

Whoever wants real peace should first of all accept justice and comprehensiveness because any unsustainable settlement is of no value. Whoever wants to establish peace with the other party should return the rights of this party and depart from the policy of aggression. He who seeks peace must understand that security arrangements are mutual commitments. They should not be used by one party to undermine the security of the other party or denigrate its dignity or sovereignty on its national soil. Above all, Israel is the aggressor party, it is the party that occupies the lands of others, and it must pass the test of good intentions vis-a-vis peace and the international consensus to establish peace based on justice and guaranteeing the security and dignity of all parties.

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Radio Commentary Belittles Peace Process Results

JN1108150195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Aug 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Four years after the Madrid conference, we can say that the results of the peace process fall very short of expectations and hopes. The region is still very far from the desired just and comprehensive peace, and the peace tracks have stopped or at least are stumbling because of Israel's tough and deceptive positions. And if we look carefully at the Palestinian track and the uproar Israel is raising to polish past and future accords, we will only see a tempest in a teapot.

Although it seriously harms the rights of the Palestinian people and gives big gains to Israel, the Oslo accord has not been translated on the ground. Therefore, all hopes raised by the accord were dashed after the Palestinian people inside and outside the occupied territories discovered that Israel had not abandoned its settlement, Judaization, and hegemony plans; that the self-rule lacked substance; that the self-rule authority was used by Israel to chase Palestinians in occupation sites; and that no Security Council resolution was implemented. Occupation continues, the siege is still imposed, oppression has reached its climax, and Israel's peace is one of occupation, killing, terrorism, and starvation.

No observer of developments on the Palestinian track believes that peace has been actually achieved or can be achieved, because what is occurring conflicts with the peace process, its bases, and its goals; it angers the Palestinian people; and it displeases all the international circles that support the goal of just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Regarding the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, Israel tried to separate them and deal with them separately but it failed because of coordination between Syria and Lebanon and because of the two countries' adherence to the rules of just peace and resolutions of the international legitimacy. Israel then adopted the policy of terrorism on the Lebanese track and the policy of blackmail and procrastination on the Syrian track. A day hardly passes without Israel committing brutal aggressions against southern Lebanese villages and townships and threatening to commit more.

Regarding the Syrian track, we can say that as soon as the Washington talks made a small step forward, Israel made new security demands and returned the negotiations to square one. Israel's demands are impossible and harm Syria's sovereignty over its land, as well as its dignity. No country that is proud of its sovereignty and freedom will accept such demands.

It is clear that Israel does not care about the Security Council's resolutions, the rules of the Madrid conference, and the principle of land for peace; that it is seeking partial and unilateral solutions and phased plans that have nothing to do with just peace; and that it is entrenching its hegemony over part if not the entire occupied territories.

Israel has not withdrawn from any Arab land four years after the Madrid conference. Its occupation forces are still besieging cities and villages, arresting civilians, destroying houses, and even killing women and children.

Peace in the region cannot be achieved under Israel's occupation. Peace depends first and last on Israel's total withdrawal to beyond the 4 June 1967 lines and on returning the occupied territories to their owners. Any security arrangements that follow the withdrawal should be even [muta'adilah] and equitable [mutakafi'ah] and should not harm the sovereignty or the security of all parties. Thus, peace requires a basic change in Israel's position and a return to the bases of the peace process, as agreed upon in Madrid. Respecting and implementing UN resolutions and ensuring the right and security of all parties is the only way to lasting peace.

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India

Muslim Separatist Group Kills Norwegian Hostage

Authorities Recover Body

BK1308095795 Hong Kong AFP in English 0933 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SRINAGAR, India, Aug 13 (AFP) — The Indian authorities in Kashmir recovered a body on Sunday [13 August] suspected to be that of one of the five Western tourists taken hostage by a Muslim separatist group, police said.

Police said they had not yet established the identity of the headless corpse found near the town of Pahalgam, where the five Western tourists were kidnapped last month.

Senior Kashmir government officials and police officers rushed to the site where the body was found, police said.

Britons Paul Wells and Keith Mangan and American Donald Hutchings were kidnapped near Pahalgam, some 100 miles (62 kilometers) east of this Kashmir summer capital, on July 4.

German Dirk Hasert and Norwegian Hans-Christian Ostro were abducted four days later while trekking in the same area.

Al-Faran, a Muslim separatist group holding the five Western tourists, has threatened to kill them on several occasions if the Indian authorities fail to release between 15 and 21 Muslim militants from prison.

The Muslim insurgency in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, has left more than 12,000 people dead since 1989.

[Hong Kong AFP in English at 0957 GMT on 13 August further reports: "A headless corpse found in Kashmir on Sunday has been identified as that of Norwegian Hans-Christian Ostro, who was abducted by Muslim separatist guerrillas last month, a senior police official said."]

Kidnappers Threaten Remaining Hostages

BK1308102395 Hong Kong AFP in English 1011 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SRINAGAR, India, Aug 13 (AFP) — A headless corpse found in Kashmir on Sunday [13 August] has been identified as that of Norwegian Hans-Christian Ostro, who was abducted by Muslim separatist guerrillas last month, a police official said.

He said a note from the kidnappers found with the body warned that four other Western tourists held by the group would also be killed if the Indian government refuses to release between 15 and 21 Muslim militants from prison.

"If the government does not accept our demands the other four will suffer the same fate," the police officer quoted the note as saying.

Officials, Media Condemn Killing of Hostage

Rao Expresses 'Shock and Disgust'

BK1408011195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0035 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister has expressed shock and disgust over the dastardly killing of the Norwegian tourist by the Al-Faran militants in Kashmir Valley yesterday. Mr. Narasimha Rao has directed the cabinet and the union home secretaries to coordinate with the state government the efforts to secure the release of other hostages still in the militants' custody.

The center reviewed the situation following the killing of the Norwegian tourist at a high-level meeting in New Delhi last night. The minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, who convened the meeting, said the killing clearly indicated Pakistan's involvement in the incident. He said the Pakistani politician, Maulana Fazlur Rahman, is closely associated with the militant outfit. Mr. Pilot said while the government was making its continuing effort for the release of the hostages, the militants precipitated the matter by killing the Norwegian national.

Union home secretary, Mr. K. Padmanabhaiah, has conveyed to the ambassadors of the four Western countries the government's sincere efforts to secure the release of their citizens held hostage by militants. He had a meeting with the ambassadors of Germany, United States, and Norway and the acting high commissioner of Britain last night. In a statement, he said the barbaric act of killing of the Norwegian national was not unexpected from the terrorists who have already soiled their hands by killing hundreds of innocent persons in Jammu and Kashmir. Mr. Padmanabhaiah said Harkatul Ansar and its front organization Al-Faran has no respect for human lives or Kashmiriyat [Kashmiri values]. Its latest act is one in the chain of international acts of terrorism and will be condemned by civilized opinion everywhere.

Germany has also condemned the killing of the Norwegian tourist by the militants. In a statement in Bonn, the foreign minister, Mr. Klaus Kinkel, asked the militants not to add another crime to their inhuman act and called for the release of other hostages unharmed.

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Muslim Leader Condemns 'Very Sad Affair'

BK1308140695 Hong Kong AFP in English 1344 GMT 13 Aug 95

[By Surinder Oberoi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SRINAGAR, India, Aug 13 (AFP) — The corpse and severed head of a Norwegian tourist abducted by Muslim separatists in Kashmir was found on Sunday [13 August] as the kidnappers warned that four other Western hostages could meet a similar fate.

The body of Hans-Christian Ostro, 27, of Oslo, was discovered on the side of the road by residents of the village of Seer-Panzmulla, 60 kilometers (37 miles) east of this Kashmir summer capital, a senior police officer said.

A note from the kidnappers, the Muslim separatist group Al-Faran, left near the body warned that the four other Westerners would be killed if the Indian government failed to release 15 jailed Muslim guerrillas in the next two days.

The police officer quoted the note addressed to "Indian security dogs" as saying: "If the government does not accept our demands the other four will suffer the same fate."

He said Ostro had been decapitated and his hands and feet bound with rope. The head was recovered near the torso, which was clad in a loose-fitting Indian shirt and trousers.

Another source who requested anonymity said Al-Faran, or Jungle Warriors, had been carved into the abdomen in Urdu letters with a sharp instrument.

The body was found on the road leading from Srinagar to Pahalgam, the Himalayan mountain resort where Ostro and the four other Westerners were kidnapped last month, police said.

It was discovered in an area where thousands of Indian paramilitary troops have been deployed to protect Hindu pilgrims from attacks by Muslim separatist guerrillas.

The body was taken to an Indian army hospital in Srinagar and was to be flown to New Delhi later Sunday or Monday for a post mortem, officials said.

In Oslo, the foreign ministry confirmed that the body was that of Ostro and said it had been identified by a representative of the Norwegian embassy.

Shabir Shah, the most prominent leader of the Kashmiri Muslim movement to end Indian rule, condemned the Norwegian's murder.

"It's a very sad affair," he told AFP by telephone. "I condemn this act.

"Despite the heavy deployment of troops in the area, this has happened," Shan added. "You be the judge."

Ostro, who had been travelling in India since February, was kidnapped near Pahalgam, some 100 kilometers (62 miles) east of Srinagar, on July 8, the same day that German tourist Dirk Hasert, 25, of Erfurt, was seized.

Britons Paul Wells, 23, of London, and Keith Mangan, 33, of Middlesborough, and American Donald Hutchings, 42, of Spokane, Washington, were kidnapped while trekking near Pahalgam four days earlier.

The discovery of the body came just hours after Ostro's sister, Annette, and the wives of the other four hostages issued a joint appeal for their release.

In a statement published in Kashmir's Urdu-language newspapers, they called on the kidnappers to free the five men saying they were innocent tourists.

Al-Faran had threatened to kill the hostages on several previous occasions if the Indian authorities failed to release the imprisoned Muslim militants.

But the Indian authorities have refused to exchange any jailed guerrillas for the hostages and Kashmir governor K.V. Krishna Rao reiterated that refusal in a television interview aired Sunday.

"They are all hardcore militants," the governor said of the imprisoned militants, "and if released they will create more trouble, kill more people, kidnap more people."

Indian officials believe that Al-Faran may actually be the hardline Muslim separatist group Harkat-ul-Ansar, which has a number of Afghan mercenaries in its ranks and kidnapped two Britons in the same area a year ago.

The two British tourists were released unharmed after 17 days.

The Harkat-ul-Ansar has disowned responsibility for the latest kidnappings, however, and along with other Kashmiri Muslim separatist groups has condemned the abductions and called for the safe release of the hostages.

Besides the two Britons, there have been a number of other kidnappings of Westerners in Kashmir since the Muslim insurgency began six years ago.

All have ended with the safe release of the hostages, however, except for the June 1991 abduction of several Israelis in Srinagar.

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The Israelis snatched the guns from the kidnappers and turned the weapons on them. One Israeli and one militant died while the other Israelis escaped.

The Muslim insurgency in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, has left more than 12,000 people dead since 1989.

Officials React to 'Brutal Act'

BK1308161795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the Kashmir Valley, one of the five hostages, Mr. Christian Ostro of Norway, has been killed by the kidnappers. His body was found in Athmokam village about 30 km from Anantnag. An official spokesman said the body of Mr. Christian Ostro was brought to the Cantonment Hospital, Srinagar. The adviser to the governor, Mr. D.D. Saklani, and other senior officials including the additional chief secretary, home, visited the hospital.

The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has expressed shock over the killing of the Norwegian tourist by the militants. Talking to our correspondent, he said this is the most heinous crime that could have been committed by the militant organization. He said the government had been negotiating to seek the release of the hostages, but the conditions put forward were such that were difficult to accept. Mr. Chavan conveyed condolences to the bereaved family of the Norwegian tourist.

Reacting to the brutal act of the militants, the minister of state for home affairs, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, said that new method will have to be found to secure the release of the other four hostages. Giving details of the incidents to the ANI [Asian News International] Television today, he said the body of Mr. Ostro was found on the outskirts of Anantnag around 2:00 PM by security personnel. A note in Urdu by Al-Faran was tied to the body which said they will kill the rest of the hostages if their demands were not met within two days.

Norway has condemned the killing of its national by the militants in Kashmir and urged India to do its utmost to capture the culprits and bring them to book. The United States says it is deeply concerned at the killing of the Norwegian hostage. A spokesman of the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi also appealed to Al-Faran to release the other four hostages immediately and unconditionally.

It may be recalled that five foreigners were kidnapped from Pahalgam area by the Al-Faran group on 9 July this year. The group was demanding the release of some local militants and foreign mercenaries. The fate of the other four kidnapped foreigners is not known.

Radio Assails Killing, Cites Pakistan

BK1408083695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 14 Aug 95

[Commentary by Ajit Singh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The killing of the kidnapped Norwegian tourist came on a day when the women relatives of all the five kidnapped tourists had issued an appeal in the Srinagar newspapers urging the abductors to release the hostages on humanitarian grounds. The Jammu and Kashmir government and the governments all over the world too have been making similar appeals to the abductors not to make the innocent persons as a pawn in their game for dubious designs.

Even most of the militant groups in Kashmir and the Hurriyat Conference had categorically condemned the kidnappings as against the tenets of Islam. They demanded the immediate release of the tourists, whom they termed as the honored guests of the people of Kashmir. Nothing moved the abductors who repeatedly threatened the killings and ultimately killed one of the five tourists. This only proves that militants do not care for public opinion, neither in Kashmir nor elsewhere in the world.

The Jammu and Kashmir government's stand has been that yielding to militant's blackmail was not a long-term sound policy to deal with militancy. If the dreaded militants are released they would indulge in more killings when they are set free. Going by the experience, the government perhaps hoped that foreign tourists would never be harmed and would be released safely, sooner or later. Militants had earlier kidnapped two Swedish engineers of the Uri hydel [hydroelectric] project, a French engineer of the Dulhasti hydel project, and two British tourists on different occasions. All of them were released though after prolonged captivity. This is the first time that a foreign tourist was kidnapped, kept in long captivity, and then killed in the Kashmir valley.

Over 1,660 persons have been kidnapped in Kashmir in the last six years of militancy. Many more cases even go unreported as people try to seek release of their relatives by accepting the militants demands. Even women were not spared of kidnapping. The militants have been kidnapping their rival militants and even their sympathizers. The kidnapping and killing of the Norwegian tourist by the foreign mercenary-dominated new outfit called Al-Faran proves that the so-called movement in Kashmir is being managed now with foreign mercenaries as local militants have lost much of their interest. There is no doubt that Pakistan is supporting the militancy in the Kashmir valley. Who

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knows the killers of the foreign tourist in Kashmir are also hailed tomorrow as heroes in Pakistan. It is time the international community should take a note of the open support to militants by Pakistan and take firm steps to check the menace.

'Emergency Meeting' Held on Hostage Situation

BK1408062395 Hong Kong AFP in English 0446 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, India, Aug 14 (AFP) — Indian officials were holding an emergency meeting here Monday [14 August] after Moslem separatist militants in Kashmir murdered a Norwegian tourist and threatened to kill their four other Western hostages.

Doctors at the army hospital here said meanwhile that a note written by the slain tourist, Hans-Christian Ostro, 27, of Oslo, had been found on his body.

In another development, the ambassadors of Britain, Germany and the United States appealed for the immediate and unconditional release of the other four Western hostages.

Officials said the Kashmir Government's crisis management team was meeting here Monday to discuss ways to secure the release of the other four Western hostages following Sunday's discovery of Ostro's body in a remote village.

They said the local authorities were directly in touch with the office of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, who expressed shock over the killing and ordered the state government to obtain the release of the other hostages.

The corpse and severed head of the Norwegian tourist were found Sunday along with a note from the kidnappers warning that the other four hostages would meet a similar fate if the Indian authorities did not free 15 Moslem militants from prison within 48 hours.

The Indian Government has repeatedly ruled out exchanging any prisoners for the Western hostages and a massive search operation for the kidnappers by thousands of troops has failed to track them down.

Doctors at the army hospital in this Kashmir summer capital where Ostro's remains were taken said Monday that a note apparently written by the Norwegian had been found hidden on the body.

"I am dying and there is nothing to eat, nothing to live for," said the note scrawled in Norwegian and translated by a Norwegian Embassy official here.

The doctors also said Ostro may have been ill at the time of his death.

They said a full post mortem would be performed after the body was flown to New Delhi on Monday on an Indian air force plane.

The kidnappers, the Moslem separatist group Al-Faran, had said on several occasions that one of the hostages was seriously ill.

They had also claimed that two hostages — Briton Keith Mangan and American Donald Hutchings — had been wounded during a gunbattle with Indian troops last month. The Indian authorities have denied that any such clash took place.

Al-Faran guerrillas abducted Britons Mangan and Paul Wells and Hutchings on July 4 near the Himalayan mountain resort of Pahalgam, some 100 kilometers (62 miles) east of here.

Ostro, who had been travelling in India since February, and German Dirk Hasert were seized in the same area four days later.

The ambassadors of Britain, Germany and the United States held a meeting with senior Indian officials in New Delhi on Sunday and issued a joint appeal for the immediate and unconditional release of the remaining hostages.

They condemned Ostro's killing as a "barbaric act of violence" and expressed sympathy for his family. Ostro's sister, Annette, has been in India since last month to try to secure the release of her brother.

In another development, India's Minister of State for Internal Security, Rajesh Pilot, alleged that Pakistan was behind the kidnapping and murder of the Norwegian tourist. He did not elaborate.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training Moslem militants in Kashmir, India's only Moslem-majority state.

Pakistan denies the allegation but provides diplomatic and moral support for what it describes as a legitimate campaign for self- determination.

The bloody Moslem separatist drive in Kashmir, which is also claimed by Pakistan, has left more than 12,000 people dead since 1989.

Discussions Said Under Way on Freeing Hostages

BK1408092995 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The union minister of state for home, Mr. Rajesh Pilot, has told PTI in New Delhi today that the Crisis Management Group is discussing ways and means to secure the release of the four Western

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tourists taken hostage by Al-Faran in Kashmir. He said there is no question of releasing any militant in exchange for the kidnapped tourists.

Dubayy-based DAILY GULF NEWS has condemned the beheading of the Norwegian hostage in Kashmir by Al-Faran. The daily said the killing of the innocent hostage was carried out by the group only to get importance. By doing such an act it has diminished its political standing, the paper adds.

Article Views U.S. Kashmir Policy, Arms Sales

BK1408115295 Delhi THE ASIAN AGE in English 12 Aug 95 p 8

[Article by V.K. Madhavan Kutty: "Despite the sugar coating, US policy still a bitter pill"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Decades ago, in early Fifties, when American entered into an arms pact with Pakistan, the then leader of the Indian Delegation to the United Kingdom, V.K. Krishna Menon had said that we had not heard of anyone manufacturing guns that fire "only in one direction." Though the United States tried to assure us, which they do always, that these are not meant against India, we did not believe it, nor did we believe that arms for Pakistan were meant for use against USSR or China which were the arch enemies of America at that time.

With the advancement of technology America could have, perhaps, manufactured guns which fired in one direction only. But the present supply of arms to Pakistan cannot be meant against Russia which is being assisted by America to salvage her post war, post-socialist economy or against China which gets the Most Favoured Nation treatment even though China does not adhere to the norms set by Americans themselves. It cannot be to contain the spread oflslamic extremism and definitely not to curb the insurgency in Karachi or Sindh.

India should have had the foresight to see that the celebrated Pressler Law would one day be amended if not a given "one-time exemption." Did not America exercise this option during the Bangladesh war and lifted the embargo against Pakistan and also ordered movement of the Seventh Fleet as a veiled threat to India. It is apt to quote here the letter written by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi at that time to President Richard Nixon. "...It is my earnest hope that with all the knowledge and deep understanding of human affairs you, as the President of the United States, and reflecting the will, the aspirations and idealism of the great American people will at least let me know where we have gone wrong before your representatives deal with us with such harshness of language." America will not be charged with lack of consistency in their Pakistan policy or their attitude towards Kashmir. If a junior functionary of the United States administration says that India's claim for membership for Security Council of the United Nations will be supported (or it is considered?) only if Kashmir dispute is settled or a plebiscite is held there, it should be taken as an authentic statement and the assurance that the United States will stand by the Simla Agreement should be dismissed as mere rhetoric. After all, did not America successfully keep out the Peoples Republic of China, representing one fifth population of the world, for years by recognising Formosa as China. With regards to recent developments to Formosa, one feels that the United States has not completely recovered from the obsession that China is Formosa. One need not be surprised if, the United States set conditions for India's Security Council membership as the world body is being used and its charter interpreted by its largest contributed and debtor. United States always speak for United Nations.

The United States of America, with all its constitutional history, has been the opponents of the plebiscite. In the United States the consent of the inhabitants of the territories need not, and has not been asked. The act of annexation derives its legal force from the body which enacts it and it would be an error to hold its legal force necessarily dependent upon a consent obtained from some other sources. There is according to the same authority, no reason why Congress would not make an annexation dependent upon the consent of the population of the territory to be annexed — that is what may be stretched in our case — but this is not a matter of legal necessity. Nor is there any principle of public law, or general precedent from our own practice — that is to say American practice — that requires the consent of the population of an annexed territory to be from China, it is in the "national interest" of America. [sentence as published] India cannot develop its own nuclear bomb. But Pakistan can acquire it even clandestinely from America. Behind sanctions too, it is well known there are double standards in operation, as in the case of applying the norms for democracy, human rights and so on. Mrs Gandhi once said, "In fact, if we look at recent history, we must ask whether America with all its talk of democracy, supports any democratic system." As far as India is concerned, America is consistent with its policy on Kashmir and its "tilt" towards Pakistan. To Pakistan it is arms deal and to India its is arm twisting. US lays down the norms. They safeguard against its violation but give "one-time exemption."

Of late, it has been repeatedly stated that India-United States relations are on the up-swing. Although there may be ups and downs at political level, it is pointed out that

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the trade is growing steadily. The recent visit of external affairs minister is cited as an example of improvement of relations since the earlier "historic" visit of the Prime Minister, a year ago. He was fortunate enough to run into President Clinton in the verandah of White House when Clinton took the opportunity to convey his thanks to the government of India and the Indian people for looking after his wife!

The United States Ambassador to India recently visited Kashmir to talk to the ultras and probably to find the real representatives of Kashmir. What would have been the reaction of American administration if the Indian Ambassador had visited the anti-Vietnam group leaders when the Vietnam War was going on? The American Ambassador said he had postponed his earlier planned visit and clarified that this was not because he was advised against by the authorities here. Does he have the freedom to leave Delhi without informing the government? To conclude, let me quote Krishna Menon again. Kashmir accession to India is "complete, final and irrevocable" as the accession of Texas is to the United States of America. Texas is a precedent and an example as the Federal court in its wisdom said, "once acceded to the union there is no provision to secede."

Radio Views Alleged Transfer of F-16's to PRC

BK1308085795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 13 Aug 95

[Commentary by Savita Pandey]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The press report regarding the transfer of U.S.-supplied F-16 by Pakistan to China is hardly surprising. This becomes clear when one keeps in mind the Pakistani desperation to solve the issue of undelivered but paid for F-16's. The planes have been manufactured, but the U.S. is unable to deliver them to Pakistan as aid to that country has been cut off since 1990. Secondly, Pakistan and China have a stable strategic relationship. It is another matter that it is Pakistan more than China that has been at the receiving end. Thirdly, China has already declared defense to be one of its four modernization plans. Last, but not the least, neither Pakistan nor China is bothered about violating international norms and regimes.

Nor is the other so-called revelation in the report about the Pakistani move to modify the F-16 plane to make it capable of delivering nuclear weapons any surprise. Way back in January 1989, a foreign press report revealed that Pakistan had a nuclear aerial fission bomb that could be carried beneath one of its F-16's. The report had said that the detonation mechanism had been perfected and the bomb casing was suitable for high-speed flights. But the report said Pakistan had only made some progress on developing a fusing mechanism that keeps the bomb safe while in storage and during flight and then detonates the bomb properly after release from the aircraft.

Shortly before leaving office, CIA Director Robert Gates said in a Senate testimony in January 1992 that his information suggested Pakistan is interested in enhancing the ability of the F-16 to deliver weapons safely. This, however, does not mean that this is the only option Pakistan is resorting to or depending on to be able to deliver its nuclear weapon. It had already tested two short- range surface-to-surface missiles and has received missile technology from China. Sanctions were imposed on both the countries by the U.S. for the transfer of M-11 missile parts in 1993. Subsequently, they were lifted in the case of China. Mr. Pressler is currently engaged in fighting the Brown Amendment, seeking the U.S. Administration's one-time waiver to his amendment to supply Pakistan with military aid including Harpoons, P3-C Orion aircraft, and fire-finding radars.

Minister Views Services Negotiations Under WTO

BK0808094895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 8 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The government says the recently concluded services negotiations under the World Trade Organization [WTO] are fairly balanced. In a suo moto statement in the Lok Sabha today, the commerce minister said the country's main objective during the talks was to secure greater access in the signatory countries of the GATT for our professionals. In lieu of this, the country has allowed entry of foreign investment in the service sector. The negotiations, which concluded on the 28th of last month, provided sufficient safeguards to give primacy to our domestic laws and regulations, Mr. Chidambaram added.

Mukherjee Says Critics of GATT Accord Proved Wrong

BK1108151695 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 11 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There has been a 27 percent increase in investment in the farm sector. This was stated by the vice chairman of the Planning Commission and external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, while addressing the Kerala Krishak [Farmers] Congress in Trivandrum today. He said the apprehensions regarding the GATT agreement have not come true although a year has passed since India signed the agreement. Mr. Mukherjee said that the critics of the agreement had predicted that our markets would be flooded with imported farm products and the farm subsidies would have to be

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reduced. He said they have been proved wrong on both counts. The minister said our farmers are exporting their surplus produce and there has been no cut in subsidies.

Minister Addresses Threats to Foreign Investment

BK1308083395 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The finance minister has warned that playing on the fears of foreigners would deprive India of the substantial gains from foreign investment. Delivering the convocation address at the Indian Institute of Technology [IIT] in New Delhi today, Dr. Manmohan Singh said it will be a sad day if the compulsions of domestic politics create an environment whereby India is deprived of the advantages of foreign investments. He said India has been considered as a country governed by the rule of law and taking pride in honoring its contractual obligations.

The finance minister hoped that the teething problems because of private investment in public utilities like power and telecom would be solved in the near future. He said there are complex issues and stressed on maximum possible transparency. He called for enhanced cooperation between industry and research institutes like the IIT.

The noted scientist, Dr. A.P.J. Kalam, was honored at the convocation. He was presented an honorary degree of science by Dr. P.K. Kurian. The students of the institute were also conferred with degrees.

Iran

Rafsanjani Addresses 'Revolution,' U.S. Sanctions

LD1208125395 Tehran IRNA in English 1149 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 12 (IRNA) — New German Ambassador to Tehran Horst Beshmann here Saturday [12 August] submitted his credentials to President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani calling Iran's Islamic revolution as a "new event in contemporary era" said the U.S. was unable to realize the magnitude of such an event.

"This has caused U.S. statesmen to be confused and take illogical measures against Iran," the president told the German diplomat.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani called on ambassadors of European countries to try to inform European nations of the realities of the Islamic revolution in order to prevent them from following the uncalculated and misleading policies of the U.S. against Iran.

He said that Washington was alone in its recent move, i.e. the imposition of economic sanctions against Iran and thanked European states including Germany for adopting principled policies towards the U.S.-imposed economic sanctions on Iran.

Iran and Germany should make optimum use of their existing potential to expand bilateral cooperation and relations in the best possible manner.

Beshmann on his part described as "deeply rooted and historical" Tehran-Bonn relations and said that his country was for further exchanges of views with Tehran on regional and international issues.

Referring to Iran's deep knowledge of regional developments, Beshmann said Iran's mediation efforts to solve regional crises, including those in Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and Nagorno-Karabakh, were of great importance.

Moreover, Beshmann called for further promotion of mutual cooperation in various fields concerning politics, economy, science, and culture.

Radio Sees Iraqi Defections as 'Important Blow'

LD1108153595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 11 Aug 95

[Station commentary: "Repercussions of Iraq's internal developments"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Reports coming in from Iraq indicate that following the desertation [as heard] of General Husayn Kamil Hasan and a number of the family members of Saddam Husayn, the president of Iraq, to Jordan, the presidential special guard and the security forces in Baghdad, and the important Iraqi cities, have come on the alert. The presidential palace is besieged by tanks.

Saddam's son, 'Udayy, together with 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, unexpectedly flied [as heard] to Jordan to bring back Gen Husayn Kamil Hasan and his companions, but could not meet them, only returning to Baghdad after meeting with King Husayn, who has turned down Saddam Husayn's request for extradition of the deserters.

Clinton, President of the U.S., also in reaction to the present developments in Iraq, has backed the stand of King Husayn.

It appears that the situation is changing fast in Iraq and the desertation of Gen Kamil Hasan, who is numbered among the main pillars of the Saddam regime, marks the acceleration of the pace of internal developments in Iraq. Four months' before, Saddam Husayn ousted his brother-in-law, Arshad Yasin, and then deposed from

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the Interior Ministry Watban Husayn, his [Saddam's] step-brother, who was shot in a suspicious manner. In this kind of changes, some days' back, Saddam decided to purge his close relatives. However, Gen Kamil Hasan and Gen Saddam Kamil Hasan, two sons-in-law of Saddam Husayn, together with Major (Izz al-Din Muhammad Hasan) and his family members, in group took refuge in Jordan.

It is said that Saddam Husayn had decided to oust or bump off powerful Iraqi figures who were at loggerheads with Saddam's son in an effort to stabilize the situation of his son.

The desertation of Gen Kamil Hasan is regarded as an important blow to the Iraqi regime. At present, only Saddam's sons and 'Ali Hasan al-Majid have control over the situation in that country. The past two days' developments in Iraq have had vast repercussions in the world. Most experts describe the internal situation in Iraq as critical.

IRAN NEWS 'Editorial' Views Iraqi Defections

LD1308124595 Tehran IRNA in English 1122 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 13 (IRNA) — Observers, particularly in Iran, believe that Saddam's presidency will continue to pave the way for greater influence of unwanted forces, particularly the United States, in the region, an English-language daily wrote Sunday [13 August].

"They also believe that the economic and political situation in the region will deteriorate because of uncertainties in this strategically important part of the world," the IRAN NEWS underlined.

It stated that more petrodollars will fly west for the purchase of sophisticated weapons, most of which will be obsolete even before they reach the Middle East.

Referring to the news of the defection of President Saddam Husayn's two daughters along with their husbands who were holding key posts in the government of Iraq, the editorial said "as far as the defections from Iraq are concerned, this is not a new phenomenon, because 30,000 Iraqis have fled to jordan since the 1991 six-week war fought by Saddam's regime against a U.S.-led 33-nation coalition."

It stressed that all these Iraqis were forced to escape economic hardship due to U.N. sanctions which made the life of ordinary Iraqis miserable.

The article reiterated that whatever arguments are given by the regime in Baghdad for defections of the ruler's close family members, it is clear that Saddam is rapidly losing his grip on power and it is obvious that his downfall is imminent.

Just after the defections, the United States dispatched senior military officials to debrief the defectors, it said adding, "these debriefings are important and alarming."

There is every possibility that following the interview with Saddam's sons-in-law, the United States could announce, as it has done in the past, certain conclusions in order to justify its own illegitimate presence in this region, it underlined.

"Analysts believe that Saddam is in power because the United States wanted him to stay in power, otherwise, his regime would have been toppled right after its crushing defeat when its forces were thrown out of Kuwait in 1991," it said.

The daily suggested that President Saddam Husayn should seriously reconsider his position and surrender power voluntarily in the interests of the oppressed Iraqi population and the region as a whole.

That country of 20 million is sitting atop oil reserves second only to Saudi Arabia, but it is in financial chaos and is confronted by one crisis after another, it also wrote.

The paper concluded by saying that five years ago the Iraqi dinar was worth a little more than three U.S. dollars but today, one dollar fetches anywhere from 600 to 700 dinars while, salaries have remained the same.

Velayati Returns from Kazakhstan, Tajikistan Visit

LD1208180695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On his return from a six-day trip to Kazakhstan and Tajikistan, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, our country's foreign minister, gave an exclusive interview to our correspondent, in which he described the grounds for cooperation with those countries as being at a very good and constructive level and stressed the need for increasing this cooperation in the framework of the decisions approved by the Economic Cooperation Organization.

He said: After the signing in Tehran of an agreement between the Tajik opposition groups and government, very positive and good signs could be seen in that country with regards to the possible attainment of a lasting peace. Mr. Velayati went on to say: Concurrent with the visit by the delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran to Tajikistan, the UN representative, who was in that country to study the peace process, praised the efforts made by the Islamic Republic of

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Iran toward the establishment of peace and calm in Tajikistan. Mr. Velayati added: The Islamic Republic enjoys high esteem with all the involved parties in Tajikistan, and it is possible that we may be able to take effective steps toward bringing about peace, stability and constructiveness in Tajikistan.

Our country's foreign minister then referred to the good relations between Iran and Kazakhstan, and stressed the need to expand cooperation between the two countries.

Envoy to Croatia Discusses Developments, Attacks

NC1208084095 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 7 Aug 95 p 2

[Report on "exclusive" interview with Mohammad Javad Asayesh, ambassador to Croatia, by unidentified correspondent on 6 August; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mohammad Javad Asayesh, the Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador in Zagreb discussed recent developments in the Balkan crisis following attacks by the Croat Army on the rebel Serbs in Krajina. He gave an exclusive interview to our correspondent on 6 August.

He described the Croat Army attacks as a major development in the three-year Balkan crisis and said: With its attacks on the Serb secessionist forces and the fall of Knin, the Croatian Serb rebels' center, the Croat Army has caused a major development on the front and changed the military balance against the Serbs. [passage omitted]

Asserting that the cooperation between the forces of Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina was constant, Asayesh stated: Due to the Islamic Republic of Iran's efforts last year, Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina signed a mutual cooperation agreement, the turning point of which was a treaty signed by Bosnian President Izetbegovic and Croatian President Tudjman at Split Port [in Croatia] and since then cooperation between the two countries has seemed to increase.

In response to a question on the possibility of Serbia entering the war, the Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador in Zagreb replied: The Serbian president has officially announced that he does not support the secessionist Bosnian and Croat Serbs who are directing the war themselves. The Croat forces' attacks on the separatist Serbs is an excellent test of whether Serbia will openly support the rebel Serbs. [passage omitted]

On whether lifting the arms embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina by the Islamic countries would resolve the Balkan crisis, Asayesh said: Our foreign minister urged the lifting of the arms embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina at many sessions. Fortunately, the foreign ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Contact Group approved this at their latest session. The unanimous decision by the Islamic countries and some non-Islamic countries pressures the United Nations to lift the arms embargo on Bosnia- Herzegovina; this will generate a favorable atmosphere toward this.

He said: In mid-August, a session of high-level political and military experts from Islamic countries will be held in Malaysia. The session will look at ways of sending assistance to Bosnia-Herzegovina. [passage omitted]

Friday Prayer Sermon Calls For Action in Bosnia

LD1108151895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1025 GMT 11 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] If we were to talk about the issue of Bosnia-Herzegovina in Europe for an hour, we would conclude that its main cause is the West. They wish for Islam not to be present in that area. That is their main goal. They are Islam's enemies. They want to wipe out Islam. What is the main purpose behind the international organizations — with all their machinery, facilities, words, and so on — showing the green light to, supporting, taking the side of, and allowing the Serbs to commit so many crimes? Is Bosnia- Herzegovina just a piece of land?

The important point is they do not want Islam to be present in Europe. And because they do not want it to be present, the Islamic peoples should understand that. They should realize that, under these circumstances, if Islam were to become one and Muslims were to unite, they could protect Muslims in Europe, advance the future of Islam in Europe, and defeat the enemies of Islam. But if each were to sing his own tune, or get bogged down with 1,000-year-old arguments, the plans of foreigners and the enemies of Islam would be successful in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Afghanistan, Palestine, and other places. [passage omitted] [crowd chants: "God is Great!" "Death to America!"]

Surely what is meant by unity is that we must be united to confront the enemy. For example, in the conference entitled Religion Is now Working for Humanity Today, does anyone imagine that in the conference people are talking about a Muslim becoming a Christian or a Christian becoming a Muslim? No one is saying this. [passage omitted]

The aim of unity is unity in confronting the enemies of Islam.

I have already spoken about Bosnia. We must thank and praise our people for the support they have shown to the people of Bosnia through the guidelines of the great

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leader, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i [crowd chants: "God's peace and benedictions be upon Mohammad and his scion"], may God extend his shadow, and the guidelines of the country's officials. The people cooperated with the officials and coordinated their activities. The assistance being given must continue and the people should be thanked and praised.

Here I would like to say that the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC], and the OIC Contact Group, especially... one hopes they follow up on the new proposal and find a practical way to resolve the crisis.

These days there are certain items of news and I think I should say that, to a certain extent, the news is good because of some cooperation between Bosnia and Croatia. However, this is not enough. The embargo placed on the Muslims must be lifted. Muslims should help the Bosnians and,in any case, giving real help is the job of the OIC and we hope, God willing, that the OIC can resolve this crisis.

The second issue is that according to the constitution the courts should be open and public. This principle has been observed and implemented in the legal sense. That is to say that no one has been barred from entering a court except in cases determined and announced by the head of the court.

However, there are some issues which concern the national and public interests or they are to do with local and provincial matters. Such issues have naturally been dealt with by open courts. There are certainly differences between open courts which deal with national and provincial cases on the one hand and the other types of courts where, although people are free to attend, no invitation is issued to them to do so. People who are interested will go and find out about them, while others will not.

The media have informed you about the proceedings in a number of open trials that have been in progress recently. For my part, I really would like to thank my colleagues in the judiciary who have heeded the guidelines of the eminent leader and have done their work very well. [passage omitted]

The Voice and Vision [Iranian radio and television organization] is the university of this country and is responsible for ensuring the cultural and intellectual development of our society. Yet you have noticed that in connection with some of these developments [court cases] they have only broadcast a few thingsin the form of either news reports or some very short snippets.

Well, I do not know whether in the same way that the Voice and Vision has started a number of good projects, such as opinion polls, receiving the views of the public — you have seen some examples of that, some officials have seen more and we are familiar with some of the work they have done in asking the views of the public. I wish to ask them whether the films which you have obtained from other parts of the world, or when you build up your famous inspector to such an extent as though he is a first-class and skillful judge — at times I have noticed a number of weaknesses in his dealings and arguments, but they have made it into a film — or your other detective film whose name I do not wish to mention; or a couple of other films, one of which has been made inside the country, and in order that you could use certain garments you have given it an Islamic form but you have portrayed them with foreign appearances and foreign clothing and you are showing it in the form of a criminal, detective film. Alright this is your job and you are doing your job. [sentence as heard] [passage omitted]

Time is short. After the remarks of the esteemed leader about the people of Afghanistan, we would have liked to see the probleme solved much sooner. We urge them to end these problems. They should show respect for the remarks of the esteemed leader.

Concerning the events which are taking place in Palestine and the behaviour of the Israelis, we hope that it will not be too long before it is made clear to them that such stage-managed activities will not achieve very much, until the day when the people who have right on their side return to their own homes, God willing. [passage omitted]

Commentary Views Proposed U.S. Plan for Bosnia

LD1308133795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0957 GMT 13 Aug 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] According to the news agencies, a delegation headed by U.S. President Bill Clinton's national security adviser is busy negotiating with the leaders of the International Contact Group member countries to obtain their support for the new peace plan proposed by Washington to resolve the Bosnian crisis. It is said that to date the German, French, and British heads of state have supported proposed U.S. peace plan and that the delegation intends to travel to Moscow to talk in this connection with the Kremlin leaders.

In reality, this U.S. plan for Bosnia is being proposed soon after the Croatian Army attacked the regions seized by the Serbs in Krajina Province. This attack resulted in completely smashing the Bosnian Serb lines and the Krajina region was captured by the Croatian Army. The

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event met with different international reactions, especially from the two major members of the International Contact Group, that is, the United States and Russia, who each have their own interests in Bosnia. These two powers lost no time in presenting new proposals for restoring peace in Bosnia in ways that would suit their own best interests.

The German defence minister, who has already announced some details of the proposed U.S. peace plan, said that an international conference on Bosnia will soon convene to discuss the proposal. Those taking part in the conference will be the heads of the International Contact Group member states as well as Serbia, Croatia, and Bosnia. The proposal apparently envisages Bosnia's Serbs and Croats setting up a federation with their ethnic allies — that is, Serbia and Croatia — and that the independence of Bosnia will be maintained within its former borders.

Some political observers believe that the new proposal, which was submitted to the U.S. Congress after the veto of the lifting of the arms embargo against Bosnia, demonstrates a change in Washington's policy towards Bosnia. Others, however, believe that no essential change has really taken place in U.S. policy. Bearing in mind recent Croat victories in Bosnia, they argue that the only change is the emergence of a favorable situation enabling the United States to play its role in the formation of Greater Serbia and Greater Croatia, within the framework of the new peace plan.

It could be said that the Bosnian Muslims now have more reason than ever before to be concerned about their destiny. This is because, in addition to the ambiguous nature of the proposed peace plan, there are no guarantees whatsoever in the plan for Muslims to maintain their rights to national sovereignty and territorial integrity in the future, as an independent country and official member of the United Nations. This is specially so since, following the recent Croat attacks on Krajina, over 150,000 Serbs, many of whom are atheists, have, by entering Bosnian territory, rushed to help Bosnian Serb paramilitary forces. This has not only further jeopardized the security of the Muslims but has altered the composition of the population to the disadvantage of the Muslims and to the advantage of the Serbs.

In any case, any peace proposal which the international community submits must include the following fundamental point: That Bosnia is an independent Muslim country and a member of the United Nations with distinct territorial boundaries which have to be respected on the basis of international laws and regulations.

Radio Views Peace Process, 'Arafat's 'Concessions'

NC1408092495 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 14 Aug 95

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] The media reports that combatant Palestinian groups have condemned the recent 'Arafat-Peres compromise that was signed with the Zionist regime. In it, 'Arafat has extended even greater privileges to the Zionist regime.

According to this agreement signed in Taba on 10 August, the Zionist army will be allowed to retain control of the West Bank with the exception of some cities. Contrary to 'Arafat's initial insistence and the problems in extending autonomy in the West Bank— the date for releasing the Palestinian prisoners and transferring power—the head of the autonomous government has given even greater concessions. This endorses the continuation of Zionist rule on the usurped territories.

The important issues remain unresolved. They include Jerusalem, the release of Palestinian prisoners, and the expropriation of Palestinian lands. However, 'Arafat apparently prefers that they remain unresolved during the compromise talks while the combatant Palestinian groups emphasize their struggle to defend the lawful rights of Palestinians. They see 'Arafat's recent actions to deviate from the fundamental principles, to shun the values of the Palestinian nation, and to perpetuate Zionist rule in the occupied territories.

It is obvious that by extending such concessions, 'Arafat is distancing himself even farther from the Palestinian people. This is not something that the Palestinian people can ignore.

Tehran Denies Israeli Kidnapping Allegations

LD1308185895 Tehran IRNA in English 1843 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ankara, Aug. 13, IRNA — Iranian Embassy in Ankara here on Sunday [13 August] denied an Israeli allegation printed in Turkish press on kidnapping a Zionist, Herzl Rad in Turkey by staffers of Iran's consulate in Istanbul.

The press attache of Iranian embassy issued a statement rejecting the rumors mounted by the Zionist regime on any implication of Iranian consulate in the affair.

The statement said the recent scenario was designed to cover up the Zionist regime's action in Turkey which is gross violation of Turkish sovereignty.

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The press attache of Iranian embassy said that kidnapping the Israeli national indicates activity of suspicious elements of Mossad in Turkey.

Meanwhile, the Arabic-language London weekly, AL-AWSAT said that Rad was kidnapped by Israeli agents in Turkey.

AL-AWSAT said Israeli agents kidnapped Herzl Rad, 31 in Turkey two months ago and flew him secretly to Israel for trial.

Daily Blasts Azerbaijan for Warming Israeli Ties

NC1308170795 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 7 Aug 95 p 1

[Editorial: "The Penalty for Treachery"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yashar Aliyev, the deputy speaker of the Azerbaijani National Assembly had a meeting with the Zionist regime's Foreign Ministry officials on Saturday [5 August], during which he stressed the need for broadening Baku-Tel Aviv relations.

He stated that the expansion of bilateral relations will create the necessary conditions for bringing the people of the two countries closer together.

The remarks by the high-level Azerbaijani official come now, even though Azerbaijan sought to forge relations with the Zionist regime as soon as it declared its independence in 1991. The erstwhile rulers strove to justify these relations on the basis of the insignificant minority of Jews in their country and on the pretext of taking advantage of the Zionist regime's agricultural knowhow.

However, the reality is entirely different. According to the former leaders, the establishment of relations with Tel Aviv would assist the Azerbaijani regime in broadening its relations with the United States, which would ultimately result in victory for Azerbaijan in the Nagorno-Karabakh war.

Reciprocally, the Zionist regime, which was seeking to end its political isolation in the Islamic world, welcomed the forging of relations with Baku. In addition, Tel Aviv believed that the establishment and broadening of relations with Baku would reflect some of Azerbaijan's historical, national, and cultural identity onto Israel. The United States also gave this its seal of approval.

Now that four years have passed since the declaration of independence by the Republic of Azerbaijan along with its many concomitant political and military coups d'etat, there are two factors that have remained constant in Baku's foreign policy: Friendship with the Zionist regime and frigid relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

These two factors had the support of the Pan-Turkists [preceding word in English] as well as the technocrats [preceding word in English] such as Aliyev, whose political success in Nakhichevan was due to Tehran's support. In any case, Geydar Aliyev did not forget the fate of his predecessor Elchibey's anti-Iranian policy, and so he has acted very cautiously in his relations with Tehran even though he has not sought to prevent adverse propaganda by the Azerbaijani media and government.

In any case, Baku's foreign policy has steadily converged with that of the United States. Testifying to this fact are its membership in the NATO Partners for Peace plan and its signing a treaty with the Western consortium [preceding word in English] for extracting and exporting oil from the Caspian Sea, after which the agreement with Iran on the consortium was annulled.

In compliance with orders from U.S. companies such as Exxon, Baku abrogated its oil agreement with Iran on the consortium. It was against this backdrop that the Aliyev regime, which at that time was seeking to suppress its internal opponents, banned its Islamic party from operating and began to broaden its relations with Tel Aviv more than ever before.

While this is tantamount to an insult to the Muslims, especially the Shiites of that region, it has also offended public opinion in Muslim countries because the expansion of Baku-Tel Aviv relations comes at a time when Palestine and Lebanon are still victims of the Zionist regime's usurpation. This is not an issue which Aliyev, with his shameful record under the communist regime of the former Soviet Union, can pride himself on.

Aliyev should recall the fate of the late Egyptian ruler Anwar al-Sadat, who received the reply to his treachery to the Islamic world with bullets. Azerbaijani statesmen should bear in mind the aspirations of the people of their country who are living in hopes of joining their motherland. These people wish to endorse their historical and cultural legitimacy and aspire to a Greater Iran, parts of which, including the Caucasus, were lost to others by the incompetent Qajar kings.

Sudanese Ambassador Discusses Egypt, Tehran Ties

NC1208074095 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 6 Aug 95 p 14

[Report on interview with Qutbi al-Mahdi, the Sudanese ambassador to Iran by unidentified IRNA correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Qutbi al-Mahdi said in response to the correspondent's question on Egypt: There is a difference in ideology between the revolutionary system in Sudan and the regime in Egypt, several

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areas have constantly caused conflict between Egypt and Sudan. The ambassador pointed out some examples: the Egyptian Government's cooperation with the Zionist regime, the Egyptian regime's agreement with U.S. policies, and the belief by Egyptian officials that Sudan should be dependent on Egypt.

Regarding the Egyptian regime's latest accusation that Sudan was involved in the assassination attempt against Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Addis Ababa, Qutbi al-Mahdi commented: These accusations—like all those before—are completely false.

The Sudanese ambassador added: Husni Mubarak is facing immense domestic problems, the most significant of which are the serious economic situation; popular opposition; Islamic movements, which the regime must try to confront; and the growing opposition of journalists and academics against the dictatorial policies of the Cairo regime, which Mubarak caused by acting to limit freedom of the press.

He continued: To justify its inability to improve the economy and generate a stable domestic welfare system, the Egyptian regime raises the specter of the presence of a foreign danger.

Responding to a question on how seriously he views the Egyptian Government's threats to militarily attack Sudanese soil, Dr. al- Mahdi said: Observers know very well that the Sudanese people are serious about defending the Sudanese Islamic system. Therefore, if Egypt were to embark on such military adventurism, the Egyptian Muslims' opposition to Husni Mubarak would cause the Egyptian regime to topple.

On the Egyptian regime's accusations that the Sudanese Government assists and gives asylum to combatant Egyptian Muslims, the Sudanese ambassador stated: Revolutionary movements in Egypt use the resources that the people give them, they do not seem to need the assistance of countries such as Sudan. These movements do not have any presence on Sudanese soil.

Referring to the differences between his country and Egypt over Hala'ib, al-Mahdi asserted: To force Sudanese migration, Egyptian forces have occupied the cities of Shalatayn, Badi', and Abu Ramad in Hala'ib province; besieged the city of Hala'ib; and blocked the entry of food and medicine.

He added: The Egyptian regime has opposed solving these problems by negotiation, mediation by Arab countries, or by referring them to international courts.

The Sudanese ambassador in Tehran answered a question on the latest developments in southern Sudan and said: It is calm there now and the rebel military forces have been forced beyond the borders.

He described the relations between Khartoum and Tehran as strategic. He refuted recent press claims that the Islamic Republic of Iran has a military presence in Sudan.

Dr. Qutbi al-Mahdi added: The powers of world arrogance support these accusations and so far we have not needed military cooperation. If the need for defense cooperation between the two countries were to arise, it would only be possible if both sides agreed.

Regarding allegations by Arabic newspapers that the Islamic Republic of Iran and Sudan cooperate in assisting Islamic movements in Arab countries, the Sudanese ambassador said: These allegations are made by countries that are facing internal problems due to their cynical policies. This is why they work to attribute domestic unrest to unrelated forces.

He added: Because the Islamic Republic of Iran and Sudan have popular systems that are totally independent, the two countries defend the world's just, Islamic issues; therefore, it is not unusual that the powers of world arrogance and their allies support such allegations.

Al-Mahdi described relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Sudan as excellent and added: Relations between Tehran and Khartoum have common ideological roots and both the countries have strong relations in all spheres.

Dollar Exchange Rate Said To Decrease Further

95LA0312B Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 20 Jun 95 p 20

[FBIS Translated Text] Economic Affairs Division—These days in the nation's economic circles there is talk of a reduction in the foreign exchange rate.

Today with the adoption of the new policy, the worries of the past about the economic situation have given way to hope. This decision brought the light of hope onto the face of our nation's economy, and the spark of happiness was made to glow in the eyes of producers and consumers alike. What has doubled the public joy these days and what always strengthens decisions like this was the recent speech by the president of the republic and several of the nation's officials with regard to a further decrease in the price of the dollar to 200 tumans.

This speech has already brought with it support by many of our officials and economists and the people of our country and has added to the wave of their support in affirmation of this policy.

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To welcome this action, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI's reporters have prepared reports on the views of officials, economists, producers, exporters, and the public with regard to the new decrease in the rate for the dollar.

At his 5 Khordad [26 May] Friday prayer sermon, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the republic, issued a warning to the economic saboteurs. He also discussed the new foreign exchange policies and the likelihood of a further decrease in the foreign exchange rate. He said: One of the things the saboteurs may say to divert public opinion is that 300 tumans is too low for export foreign exchange and it should be more.

We do not agree with this. On the contrary, that is too high. Most of our experts believe that export foreign exchange should now be less than 200 tumans. If we have accepted this figure "for now," the reason is that the lives of our producers and merchants are now partly built around the higher figure. If we suddenly lower the figure, it might cause heavy market shocks. We have stabilized this figure for one year, "for now." Next year we will look at the situation again. Most of our experts believe that the figure should be below 200 tumans.

Likewise Mr. Mohammad Khan, minister of economic and financial affairs, said at the Operations Seminar: It is also "possible" to stabilize the foreign exchange rate at a level lower than 3,000 rials [R], but this rate has been established "for now" to keep from changing the economic structure and creating a struggle for exports and production.

On the other hand, a few days ago Mr. Besharati, minister of the interior, told the Majles that the real value of the dollar is less than 200 tumans.

The economic experts have also said that lowering the value of the dollar as much as possible will help increase the value of the national currency on a daily basis, along with the quality of export products, production, and ultimately the public's buying power. They say: Increasing the value of a nation's currency in relation to other major currencies (types of foreign exchange) will do nothing other than destroy the most important tool for development.

Dr. Asghar Moshabaki, director of the Management Group at the Teacher Training University, said: A nation's monetary unit is actually the economic and social system of that nation.

If that symbol is weak, that will in reality open the door to influence by foreign countries. In other words, a nation's character and identity is tied in a major way to that nation's monetary unit. In studying history we see that any country whose currency drops in value against that of other major currencies loses one of its most important tools for development, which is actually capital. For example, when a nation's monetary unit decreases in value, the cost of this decrease is an increase in the value of other currencies that exist in the country, which is actually considered foreign exchange.

He added: The decline in the value of a nation's money makes it easier for exporters to export their goods, because foreign buyers come to buy our goods with monetary units whose value is higher compared to the value of our money, and they spend much less. However, this is for a country whose exports are much greater than its imports, not for a country whose imports are much greater than its exports. In other words, we are forced to pay with devalued money and to import goods against currencies which have become strong compared to our money.

He added: For a country that is an importer, it is much better for its buying power to be greater than its selling power. On the other hand, for nations that are really more exporters than they are importers, it is better that their selling power be greater than their buying power.

He said: Currently we need not worry about our exports because we are an importing country. In the years of the First Five-Year Plan, our total (non-oil) exports was $4 billion. If we are going to decrease the value of our money enough to reduce the public's buying power and they lose their ability to make a living because of this $4 billion, this is not in the country's interest.

Dr. Najarzadeh, an economic affairs expert, discussed the government's recent decisions in stabilizing the foreign exchange rate. He said: As an Iranian, I welcome the reduction in the value of the dollar because if the value of our money is strengthened internationally, that will be something to be proud of, and that is very important.

Through the use of powerful leverage, their proper implementation, and ultimately the support and cooperation of the various government, Majles, and other types of organizations, it will be possible to further decrease the value of the dollar, and consequently to increase the value of the rial.

He said: Making maximum use of the abilities of skilled and specialist personnel, sufficient attention to the quality of goods and increasing their competitive ability on international markets, increasing capital investments in basic activities, and other things are considered to be the important factors in decreasing the value of various types of foreign exchange.

Dr. Moshabaki discussed the stabilization of the rate for the rial against foreign currencies such as the dollar at R3,000. This gives the people an opportunity to adapt

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themselves to a better price. He discussed the nation's economic and structural situation and said he considers it a strong likelihood that the value of the dollar will decrease again. He said: The reduction in the rate will automatically bring many benefits. It is true that if we decrease this rate, the ability of foreigners to buy our goods will be reduced, but this buying power is just for a few billion dollars, while on the other hand we import more than $15 billion in goods. It is thus much better for our buying power to be greater than our selling power. In reality the reduction in the foreign exchange rate will bring about such increased strength, especially since we import most of our raw materials and even our intermediate goods. It is natural that with the reduction in the foreign exchange rate we will gain better buying power against foreign currencies.

He cited control of currency in circulation as an important factor in reducing the foreign exchange rate. He said: There are policies for controlling the volume of currency in circulation, include gathering capital and guiding it into productive activity, activating the stock market system as much as possible, supporting companies whose exports are greater than their imports in the import-export framework, and making use of such instruments as tax incentives for the transfer of companies.

He added: Other potent factors in reducing the foreign exchange rate include declaring the dollar as a secondary currency unit in transactions by encouraging importers to deal with countries that are willing to trade in currencies other than the dollar. This will reduce demand for the dollar as a monetary unit in foreign payments, and with reduced demand, we can bring about equilibrium.

As another important lever for reducing the value of the dollar, Dr. Moshabaki mentioned the need to consume raw materials instead of exporting them. He said: Adding value to export goods and raw materials will greatly increase their price on international markets. This is a phenomenon to which we have paid little attention thus far.

He added: By using specialist manpower and doing work on these raw materials, in the long term they can be converted to intermediate materials, and their ability to earn foreign exchange can be multiplied several fold.

Pakistan

Officials React to Killing of Kashmir Hostage

Foreign Secretary Condemns 'Brutal Act'

BK1308155295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to reports from occupied Kashmir, abductors of the five foreign tourists have killed a Norwegian tourist, Hans-Christian Ostro. Quoting a police official in Srinagar, news agencies have reported that his dead body was found near a town in Anantnag today. The police official has stated that a note of the abductors was also recovered with the dead body of the tourist. The note warns: if the Indian Government does not accept our demands, the four remaining hostages will also be killed.

The Pakistani foreign secretary has expressed deep sorrow over the killing of the Norwegian citizen. He said the Government of Pakistan strongly condemns this brutal act. He said the government and the prime minister had personally made repeated appeals for the unconditional release of the hostages, but no attention was paid to the appeals.

Official Cites 'Forces' Against 'Cause'

BK1308165095 Hong Kong AFP in English 1518 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD, Aug 13 (AFP) — Pakistan Sunday [13 August] expressed its "deep" shock and anguish over the killing of a Norwegian hostage in Indian-controlled Kashmir, while Kashmiri militant bodies also denounced the murder.

In a statement here, a top official of the Pakistani foreign ministry appealed for the "immediate and unconditional" release of the remaining four Western tourists held by what Islamabad called an "unknown group."

"It is clear that the inhumane kidnapping and the ghastly murder are the acts of forces that are seeking to discredit the legitimate struggle of the Kashmiri people and to damage their cause," said Foreign Secretary Najmuddin Shaikh.

"The government strongly condemns this barbaric act," he said.

The statement followed reports from Srinagar, summer capital of Indian-controlled Kashmir, that the corpse and severed head of Norwegian Hans-Christian Ostro, 27, was found Sunday.

Two Britons, Paul Wells and Keith Mangan, American Donald Hutchings and German Dirk Hasert are still in the custody of the Al-Faran guerrilla group.

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The group has threatened to kill them as well if the Indian government does not free 15 imprisoned Muslim guerrillas in two days.

Shaikh recalled that Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and her government had repeatedly appealed for the "unconditional" release of the five Western tourists, following their abduction last month.

"These appeals and similar appeals by Kashmir leaders had all gone unheeded," Shaikh lamented.

"The government of Pakistan urges the unconditional and immediate release of the remaining hostages," the foreign secretary said.

Officials here have openly aired suspicions in the past that the Al-Faran group be an outfit controlled by Indian intelligence agencies.

In Muzaffarabad, capital city in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) said "the murder of the Norwegian has shocked us."

"We share the grief of the Norwegian nation, government and the bereaved family," said Raja Muzaffar, vice-chairman of JKLF, one of some 30 militant groups, fighting against Indian rule in Kashmir.

"By their terrorist act, the kidnappers have proved that neither they are Kashmiris nor the well-wishers of the Kashmiri people," Muzaffar said.

He appealed to the militant organisations in Indian-held Kashmir to use "military means" to secure the release of the remaining four Westerners held by the Al-Faran group, in order to "lessen damage to their cause" in the world.

A spokesman for Muslim Janbaz Force, another militant body, called the kidnappers "Indian agents" whom he said "want to defame the Kashmiri movement."

Pakistan vows moral and political support for the separatist campaign in India's northern state of Kashmir, but denies New Delhi charges that it provides arms and training to militant organizations.

More than 12,000 people have been killed since 1989 in violence linked to the separatist drive.

Secretary Calls For Release of Hostages

BK1408133595 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 14 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan has condemned the ghastly and barbaric murder of the Norwegian hostage held by the unknown kidnappers in occupied Kashmir and demanded the unconditional and immediate release of the remaining hostages.

Talking to PTV, Foreign Secretary Mr. Najmuddin Sheikh said:

[Begin Sheikh recording, in progress] ...has been deeply shocked and saddened by this tragic incident; this senseless killing of the hostage held in Indian-held Kashmir by this unknown group. The prime minister and the Government of Pakistan had repeatedly appealed for the unconditional release of all the hostages. Such appeals had also been addressed to the kidnappers by prominent Kashmiri leaders of the All Pakistan [as heard] Hurriyat Conference. I would like on behalf of the Government of Pakistan to appeal to the kidnappers to release all the other hostages unconditionally. [end recording]

Kabul 'Misconception' About Meddling Said Removed

BK0908122195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 9 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, has said Pakistan is completely neutral and has no favorites in Afghanistan. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today on his return from a week-long visit to Afghanistan, he said he has been able to dispel misconception and misunderstanding in Kabul that Pakistan was interfering in the affairs of Afghanistan. He said during his meeting with President Rabbani and Commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, he was able to convince them that Pakistan did not believe in interference. He said Pakistan has abiding interests to peace and stability in Afghanistan and that there has to be an Afghan solution of the problem and it is the responsibility of Afghan leaders and people to resolve their differences.

Prime Minister Bhutto Comments on Karachi Situation

BK1308160495 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said the government wants a political solution of the Karachi problem and has never closed its doors for negotiations with the Altaf Group despite provocations from the other side. Talking to newsmen in her chamber at the Parliament House in Islamabad this evening, she said the government is ready for open talks with the Altaf Group as it has shown maximum restraint to provocative acts because it considers the talks as very serious.

The prime minister said there are a number of reasons for disturbances in Karachi, including economic, social,

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and political ones. People with evil designs are exploiting the situation by supplying arms to the militants. She said her government has given a massive package of 121 billion rupee development program for Karachi. She has visited Gulbahar, Baldia Town and Banaras Chowk and has issued directions that development work should not be restricted to posh areas, but concentration should be given toward the development of kachi abadis [slums] and poor localities.

She said the present government inherited a number of problems from the previous government and has taken a number of steps against narcotics smuggling and arms culture and has been challenged. The government reestablished the state authority. She said wherever the state authority and people in the four provinces, Azad Kashmir, northern areas, and FATA [Federally Administered Tribal Areas] have welcomed these steps. [sentence as heard] The prime minister said unlicensed arms were given to the militant group in Karachi. She quoted the example that when Farooq Dada was killed in an encounter recently, 12 Kalashnikovs and a number of other weapons were recovered. He was involved in the murder of Captain Ahmad, Rangers, and a number of innocent people, but Altaf Group described him as their hero.

To a question, Ms. Benazir Bhutto said the government was not creating any factions in the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement]. She pointed out that already there are three factions, including those of the late Azim Tariq, who was president of the MQM when assassinated; Altaf Group; and Haqiqi Group. She said the government will not tolerate those who are trying to harm the country. She referred to the interviews of Altaf Hussain to INDIA TODAY and other Indian newspapers in which he questioned the two- nation theory and talked about a confederation. She said statistics show that there is a sound economic system and the security of the country is in competent hands.

The prime minister said when the present government came to power there was pressure on Pakistan to roll back its nuclear program and there were threats of declaring Pakistan a terrorist state and there was also sectarian and ethnic tension and a Kalashnikov culture.

Radio Reports Further on Bhutto Remarks

BK1308163195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said that the government wants a political solution to the Karachi problem and has never closed the door on negotiations with the Altaf Group despite provocations from the other side. Talking to reporters in her chambers at the Parliament House in Islamabad this evening, she said the government is ready for open talks with the Altaf Group and has shown maximum restraint in response to provocative acts because it considers the talks very serious. [passage omitted]

In reply to a question on midterm elections, the prime minister said that in her opinion the government should complete its five-year tenure and elections will be held after the completion of this period. About the restoration of seats for women in the legislature, the prime minister said the minister of state for law and justice will move an amendment to the Constitution. If the opposition supports it, this will be welcomed. Otherwise, the people will know the opposition's intentions.

In response to a query on the Pressler Amendment, Benazir Bhutto said Pakistan has not suffered a setback on the modification of this law. As far as Pakistan is concerned, it is satisfied that the U.S. Administration has admitted that it is unfair to withhold the arms as well as the money paid for them. She said those who used delaying tactics to prevent the passage of the bill to modify the Pressler Amendment are using such tactics because they do not have any support.

When the prime minister was asked to give her opinion on the dissensions in the People's Democratic Front in Punjab, she said there is no such thing.

Officials Address Official Talks With Altaf Group

Minister Expresses 'Hope' for Talks

BK1208095395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Professor N.D. Khan, federal law minister and leader of the government team in the talks with the Altaf Group, has said our foremost priority is to establish peace in Karachi and that this is not the responsibility of the government alone but of all of us.

Speaking to reporters in Karachi yesterday, he expressed the hope that the talks to restore peace and tranquility in Karachi will resume within a few days and that they will fulfill the people's aspirations. The law minister said the government is making efforts to restore the people's confidence. He gave his assurances that the government will protect people's lives and property.

In response to a query, Prof. N.D. Khan said he will send a reply tomorrow to the letter written to him by Ajmal Dehlvi, leader of the Altaf Group negotiating team. He informed the reporters that he had received Dehlvi's letter on Wednesday [9 August] evening. The law minister expressed the hope that a solution to this problem will be found soon. He added that the one-point

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agenda, agreed to by both sides, is to establish peace in Karachi first and resolve other issues in a peaceful atmosphere thereafter.

MQM Negotiator Views Stalled Talks

BK1308114595 Islamabad THE NATION in English 13 Aug 95 pp 1, 11

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi — Ajmal Dehlvi Chief Negotiator MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] team has challenged Federal Interior Minister Nasirullah Babar either to prove the allegations levelled against him or resign forthwith.

He made this demand while talking to The Nation saying if the Interior Minister proves that he (Ajmal) has conversed with Altaf Hussain on phone he will quit his responsibilities otherwise he demanded Interior Minister should resign for issuing a false statement.

During his Press conference at State Guest House Saturday [12 August] Nasirullah Babar asked the journalists present there to question Ajmal whether he has received directives from Altaf about the arrest of 5 MQM activists. To a question Nasirullah Babar said they had not bugged the MQM phones but however, added "we know every message which is passed by Altaf Hussain to Ajmal Dehlvi."

Ajmal Dehlvi said, we have only been empowered to hold negotiations with the government team to restore peace in the Karachi and nothing more.

Ajmal Dehlvi commenting on the future strategy of MQM said, "we are waiting for the reply from the government side," and added, we have delivered a letter to the negotiating team. He was told that N.D. Khan will reply his letter on Sunday.

They cannot even reply a minor question about calling MQM as MQM how would they solve the problems of the people. Such lame excuses, he said, have exposed the policy of the Government and they are not sincere in holding negotiations.

Ajmal Dehlvi said MQM has adopted the policy of "wait and see" and will soon announce its future plan.

He confirmed the contacts with other Opposition Leaders and said that "political understanding" has been developed with the Opposition Leader Nawaz Sharif. He said there was a consensus that "National Conference" on Karachi he convened as government has failed to solve the problems of Karachiites restore peace in the city.

Regarding the arrests of the MQM activists and former MQM MPA [member of provincial assembly] Osama Quadri he said all is disinformation, if he is arrested why, Nasirullah Babar is playing games with the MQM leaders and workers and wanted to trap them by giving false statements. All is fabricated he said. The diehard leaders and activists, he said, will not betray Altaf Hussain. He said since July 24 none of the government officials has contacted them for any further talks. If the government is willing to hold dialogue it must not call MQM as Altaf Group. He said, "we shall only wait for another four or five days, then we will announce our policy."

Minister Views Talks, Name Choice

BK1308160995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 13 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The federal law minister and leader of the government negotiating team [at the talks for restoring peace in Karachi], Mr. N.D. Khan, has said the government will send its reply to the letter of the leader of the Altaf group negotiating team, Mr. Ajmal Dehlvi, on Tuesday [15 August]. The minister told APP in Islamabad today that the head of the Altaf Group team, in its letter, has shown its team's readiness to resume talks, if the government stops calling his group after the name of their leader, Altaf Hussain.

The government side contended that they are ready to pronounce the Altaf Group with any name of their choice, provided they clarify their position on vital issues concerning solidarity of the country. He said the government wants the other side to clarify their position on the press statements and interviews of Altaf Hussain, in which he reportedly described the two-nation theory as a butt of joke and the proposal of a confederation between Pakistan and India.

'Sources' Discuss MQM, Police Official's Transfer

BK1308125395 Islamabad THE NATION in English 13 Aug 95 pp 1, 11

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — The government has decided to change Inspector General [IG] of Sindh police Afzal Ali Shigri as the hunt for remaining alleged terrorist groups of Altaf Group goes on.

Though such decisions are a matter of routine but keeping in mind the crucial stage of Karachi law and order the replacement is likely to cause some ripples. The official sources, however, say there is nothing suspenseful about the decision.

Mr Shigri is said to have himself asked Interior Minister Nasirullah Babar that he wanted a posting out of Karachi. The matter was discussed in a high level meeting in the Federal Capital few days back and his request was accepted.

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Meanwhile, the official sources deny having MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] secretary general Imran Farooq in their custody. Despite widespread speculation about his whereabouts, these sources says the government is not trying to prop up another MQM group by using Imran Farooq's influence.

As for the new group in the MQM, some official sources say there is no indication of any deadline at this moment. "But going by the events in Karachi, an alternative leadership is bound to come forward and replace Altaf if he does not stop his policy of acting against the State and killing innocent people" said a government source on Saturday [12 August].

But this much is admitted that Altaf Hussain had stopped running his militant groups through Imran some time back. Reasons given for that are either he had started doubting his loyalties or he had wanted to introduce a new network.

Faheem Commando, the notorious MQM militant has confessed during investigations that Altaf had formed around 12 different groups, each led by a separate leader. He maintained a direct contact with these groups, bypassing Imran Farooq in the process.

Altaf Hussain's instructions were passed on to them from London through his secretary Nadeem Nusrat. Around 20 group leaders and 100 other members of these fearful killing squads have been killed by the Police and Rangers.

Further 200 militants have been arrested and many of them brought to the federal capital by the Federal Investigation Division for detailed interrogation.

But the task is far from over. Three other dangerous groups led by Rehan Kana, Irshad Beg and Mirza Saulat are still at large, awaiting directions to strike again.

The government sources, however, claim that the main network of the terrorists has been broken, at least for the time being. "We have reached a turning point and things can definitely move towards lasting improvement. What is needed now is an effective prosecution follow-up of the culprits and speedy development in the troubled city to restore people's confidence", says a source.

According to official reports, without any reliable communication system, are running for their lives. Their organisation has been disturbed and the killing of key leaders has sent a message down the line that they could also be on the receiving end.

Coming back to Afzal Shigri, his new assignment is likely to be Commandant of Frontier Constabulary. The present Commandant, Ahmed Saeed Khan would replace him as the new Sindh IG. The official notification in this regard is expected in a day or two.

Afzal Shigri has been in the limelight for some time because of his innovative ideas on bringing changes in the police system and making it a professionally sound force. Among his fellow colleagues, he enjoys the reputation of a honest and brave police officer.

He has been the Inspector General for almost two years, probably the most turbulent period in Karachi's history. He was said to be one of the prime targets of the terrorist elements.

His earlier stint in Sindh was as DIG [deputy inspector general] Karachi in 1988 and his famous report on the MQM activities then had eventually led to his transfer from the city. The government sources say Shigri's contribution in the current successes against terrorists was significant as he had worked very hard to raise Karachi police's strength to the current number of 26,000.

'Press Note' Reports on Recent Karachi Violence

BK1208161195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a press note issued by the Karachi Administration this evening, one person was killed and five others injured in various incidents. One vehicle was set on fire. There are no reports of property damage.

Radio Addresses Peshawar Unrest, Reports on Clashes

BK1208135895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Political Administration of Khyber Agency has taken a serious view of the illegal activities of the Islahi [reforms] Committee, Bara, particularly the road blockade by the armed men under its command. In this connection, the Political Administration has been holding talks with the elders of the so-called Islahi Committee, but they refused to cease the hostile activities and lift the road blockade. In a handout issued in Peshawar, the Political Administration of Khyber Agency has leveled different charges against the Islahi Committee, Bara, including giving protection to proclaimed offenders, drugs and armed smugglers, and organizing violence in Bara Tehsil [revenue district]. The charges also include the forcible detention of two officers of the Scouts. It says the political authorities have expressed the determination to restore law and order and have appealed to all sane elements of the agency to help in the restoration of peaceful atmosphere.

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[Hong Kong AFP in English at 1246 GMT on 12 August, in a Peshawar date lined report, adds: "A dozen people were killed and 18 injured Saturday [12 August] as Pakistani paramilitary forces battled armed tribesmen resisting federal policy in this semi-autonomous northwestern region, tribal and official sources said. Earlier, officials had reported eight dead and nine injured.

"Paramilitary officials said they lost five men in the clashes at Bara — a nearby market for arms, narcotics and smuggled goods brought in from neighbouring Afghanistan. They said that six militia personnel were among the injured.

"A ceasefire went into effect after eight hours of fighting, following negotiations between government officials and a local tribal council, officials said, adding the area was now calm.

"It was mutually agreed that no side would take any action until further negotiations on August 20 over tribal grievances, including the arrest of the head of a religious body, they said.

"The Bara shooting erupted in the early hours when the security forces moved in after sealing off the area."]

'Press Note' Details 'Operation'

BK1208160895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a press note issued by the Khyber Agency Political Administration in Peshawar this evening, members of the Frontier Corps launched an operation to remove roadblocks that have been erected by antisocial elements in Bara revenue district over the past several days. The antisocial elements resorted to firing with heavy weapons, including mortar guns [preceding two words in English], on workers of the law enforcement agencies at several locations. As a result, five workers of the law enforcement agencies were killed and eight injured. In retaliatory firing by the law enforcement agencies, four antisocial elements were killed and 12 injured.

The press note says that roadblocks have been removed at (Korasapin Kabar) and surrounding areas and the rule of law has been restored there.

Sri Lanka

Indian Delegation, Officials Discuss Cooperation

BK1208164095 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sri Lanka and India have identified several areas for cooperation. Among them are the cultivation of fast growing species of trees and use of fuel wood for (?Dendro) thermal power generation, gasification of paddy husks, and organizing five studies on windmills and farm. The two countries agreed to cooperate in these sectors following talks the Indian delegation had with Sri Lankan officials.

The delegation which comprised Dr. K.C. Khandelwal, adviser, and [name indistinct], principal scientific officer from the Ministry of Nonconventional Energy Sources in New Delhi. It was in the island from the first to the eighth of this month. The two Indian visitors held discussions with the Ministry of Science, Technology, and Human Resource Development, the Forest Department, and the Ceylon Electricity Board. They also had meetings with institutions such as NARESA [Natural Resources Energy and Science Authority] and NURD [expansion unknown].

During their visit, India's high commissioner to Sri Lanka, Nareshwar Dayal, presented a portable solar lantern as a symbolic gesture of continuing bilateral cooperation and friendship to Minister Bernard Soysa.

Australia Welcomes Plan To End Ethnic Conflict

BK1008110495 Hong Kong AFP in English 1013 GMT 10 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Aug 10 (AFP) — Australia Thursday [10 August] welcomed a peace plan to resolve Sri Lanka's dragging ethnic conflict and said that the proposals injected "new hope" for a political solution to the issue.

Australia's High Commission (embassy) here quoted Australian Foreign Minister, Gareth Evans as saying that the government's peace plan unveiled last week was a "significant new dimension" to peace prospects in Sri Lanka.

"The constitutional reform proposals ... recognise the underlying causes of the conflict and demonstrate the commitment of the Sri Lankan government to a just and peaceful long-term solution," Evans said.

On Wednesday, the Canadian government also welcomed the peace package under which Sri Lanka would be turned into a "Union of Regions" offering greater autonomy to the country's two million minority Tamils.

Both countries have urged the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) to return to negotiations to hammer out a solution to the conflict, which has claimed over 50,000 lives since 1972.

The LTTE pulled out from six months of peace talks on April 19 to renew its violent campaign for a separate Tamil state in the northeast.

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